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Hopkins prohibits new arts and service groups

By **DIVA PAREKH**
Copy Editor

The University's Office of Student Leadership and Involvement (SLI) announced that they will not accept new performing arts and local community service groups this year.

According to SLI Director Kirsten Fricke, the Center for Social Concern (CSC) and the Homewood Arts Program (HAP) implemented the restrictions.

Administrators decided to stop accepting new performing arts groups because they argue that there is not enough space on campus for groups to hold practices and performances.

Regarding service groups, CSC Associate Director Gia Grier explained that ideas for new groups often focused on issues already covered by existing organizations. She discussed some prevailing trends in community service at Hopkins.

"There are popular topics, [including] health. Working with the youth is a very popular topic as well, so we do have some overlap in our network already," she said.

Grier also cited challenges between student or-

ganizations and non-profit community partners. According to Grier, service organizations tended to switch too frequently between community partners, resulting in underdeveloped relationships.

She also said that with the high number of groups, many are stretched too thin and struggle to retain their members.

Grier elaborated that smaller groups are often unable to meet the 10-student minimum requirement.

"Our staff advisors, including our category coordinator representative, and peer student group intern advisors noticed that some of our student organizations have not been serving as consistently as they had in the past," she said.

Some students like freshman Smitha Mahesh were disappointed after learning about the restrictions.

"I believe social service and performing arts organizations have a huge positive impact on the community and limiting their creativity means limiting their outreach," she said.

SEE CLUBS, PAGE A4

"It is unfair to prevent new clubs from forming because of former unproductive ones."

— ERIN CHEN,
SOPHOMORE



COURTESY OF CLARISSA CHEN

Refuel our Future, a student activist group, has pressured the University to divest its endowment from fossil fuels for the last six years.

What's next for the fossil fuel divestment campaign?

By **SARAH Y. KIM**
News & Features Editor

The Public Interest Investment Advisory Committee (PIIAC) recommended that the University divest from fossil fuels in a report released on Friday. Following PIIAC's recommendation, the Office of the Provost established a 30-day period for the Hopkins community to submit feedback online.

Comprised of undergraduates, graduate students, faculty and staff, PIIAC is commissioned by the Board of Trustees to make recommendations on the University's investments.

The Board of Trustees' Committee on Investments will collect feedback on PIIAC's report until Oct. 15. The Board has not yet announced a date for when it will be voting on the recommendations.

Refuel Our Future (Refuel), a student organization that has spent six years campaigning for the University to divest from fossil fuels, submitted a proposal to PIIAC in 2015. On Friday, Refuel issued a public statement on Facebook in support of the report.

Former Refuel President Maggie Weese, who graduated in 2017, said she was happily surprised. She re-

flected on Refuel's growth over the years and past pushback from the administration.

"When I first joined the campaign in 2013, we were really small," Weese said. "The University didn't really take us seriously as an organization. We had gotten over 5000 petition signatures signed. We deliv-

ered them to the President, but he didn't even acknowledge them."

She criticized PIIAC for its inefficiency in recent years and for delaying its recommendations, which were originally scheduled to be released on Sept. 5.

However, she praised PIIAC's recommendation.

SEE REFUEL, PAGE A5

University streamlines student support services



FILE PHOTO

The Center for Student Success is located in the Homewood Apartments.

By **VALERIE CHAVEZ**
Senior Staff Writer

Last year, the University created the Center for Student Success (CSS) in order to assist students by providing mentorship, coaching and community building resources.

The CSS works in collaboration with other offices to help students utilize the resources available at the University. The Center oversees a number of previously existing programs, many of which were part of the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA).

Irene Ferguson, associate dean of the CSS, said that the Center developed out of a need to restructure the diversity programs within OMA.

"The Center for Student Success came into existence about a year ago," Ferguson said. "We were born out of a reorganization of how the University

managed diversity and inclusion. There was a desire to bolster that."

According to Ferguson, some of the programs at the CSS are geared towards helping students who may need extra support during their time at Hopkins.

For example, Hop-In aims to assist first generation or low-income freshmen with the transition to Hopkins and prepare them for the demands of college life.

Ferguson explained that Hop-In students receive ongoing support throughout their four years at Hopkins in the form of peer mentorship, exposure to internship opportunities, social events and staff advising.

"They are working individually with a staff member, and... we help them in achieving their goals," Ferguson said.

SEE CSS, PAGE A6

Students criticize termination of Russian major

By **ALYSSA WOODEN**
News & Features Editor

The University's decision to end the Russian major, which takes effect this academic year, has incited controversy among students and faculty. While those currently enrolled in the program will be able to complete their degrees, incoming undergraduates will no longer be able to major or minor in Russian.

Although students were previously unable to select Russian as a primary major, they had the option to add it as a second major or minor through the Goucher College-Johns

Hopkins University Cooperative Program in Russian Language and Literature. Founded in 1970, the program gave Hopkins and Goucher students the opportunity to take classes at both campuses.

Program Director Olya Samilenko said that she was first made aware of the decision to end the program last November. According to Samilenko, Goucher administrators informed her that Hopkins had terminated the program due to low enrollment.

Samilenko said that she had not been consulted prior to the decision and expressed concern that she

was not given an opportunity to advocate for the program.

"Had we been given a chance, we could have made a very strong argument," Samilenko said.

Many students, such as junior Dimitri Simes, have criticized the administration for failing to communicate with those affected.

"Hopkins students were in no way consulted about this, and they were in no way notified," he said.

According to Joel Schildbach, vice dean for undergraduate education at the Krieger School for Arts and Sciences, Goucher administrators first approached

Hopkins to discuss the future of the program last summer as a result of changes in the Goucher administration.

Schildbach wrote in an email to *The News-Letter* that the termination of the program was a mutual decision between Goucher and Hopkins. He also explained that low enrollment influenced the University's decision to end the major.

"The structure of the programs at Goucher and Hopkins diverged to an extent that continuing the Program in its current form became difficult," Schildbach

SEE RUSSIAN, PAGE A4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A movie of Baltimore's rats



Director Theo Anthony's *Rat Film* connects Baltimore's rat problem to a history of racial and economic injustices. **ARTS, PAGE B5**

Public health in Cape Town

Hopkins students attend classes and partner with local NGOs in South Africa to learn about public health. **SCITECH, PAGE B7**

Why to stop using "triggered"

Diva Parekh admonishes students from casually using the term "triggered" and draws in personal experience to explain the word's significance. **VOICES, PAGE A9**

HopHacks competitors develop tech innovations



COURTESY OF KATY OH

Over 300 students participated in a three day hackathon in Hodson Hall.

By **PETER JI**
Senior Staff Writer

College students from around the country came to Homewood campus last weekend to participate in the HopHacks Fall 2017 hackathon. Working in teams, they had 36 hours from 9 p.m. Friday to 9 a.m. Sunday to design and code a technological product.

The event was organized by Major League Hacking (MLH) and had more than 15 company sponsors, including Booz Allen Hamilton, Siemens and Capital One.

According to junior Andrew Wong, a HopHacks organizer, about 330 undergraduate and graduate students from a variety of engineering backgrounds came to the event. Competitors were only allowed to code inside Hodson Hall, use public application programming interfaces (APIs) and were not allowed to bring pre-written code.

He discussed some of the unique features of this year's event.

"We've had more participants from other universities, and we've really reached out to colleges in the area to encourage collaboration in the Baltimore community," he said. "We've had more sponsors than last year."

Japneet Singh, a freshman from University of Maryland, College Park, explained the purpose of the event.

"It's a hackathon, so we're interested in making new products and creating new ideas," Singh said.

A group consisting of Hopkins sophomores Noah Naparst, Christian Cosgrove and Jason Li and sophomore Eric Zelikman of Stanford University won the first place prize of \$1,024. Their program, Seer, is an image-recognition program that can identify objects such as people and elephants from a live feed.

A team of Hopkins freshmen Evan Mays, Nathan Vallapureddy, Daniel Qian and Nathan Kaleida took second place, winning the \$512 prize. They created an app called SpotMe that allows users to find someone nearby who is able to lend them cash. The app has security features that favor public places for the exchange and a reporting feature for bad encounters.

The third place prize of \$256 went to Facial and Vocal Emotion Analysis (FaVEA), created by senior Mengying Pan, Northeastern University freshman Rabin Acharya, Northeastern University graduate student Srimannarayana Potluri and Drexel University junior Suparit Sunpongri.

They believe the app can be used to improve public speaking skills by giving

the user feedback based on facial expressions and vocal tone to help diagnose emotional disorders.

Abhilash Balachandran, a Master's student in robotics at Hopkins, was pleased with his first HopHacks experience.

"Obviously I've always wanted to make something," he said. "In HopHacks... we're under pressure, but they give you things like data, hardware."

He added that although a HopHacks competitor needs some computer science experience, enthusiasm is important as well.

Jerry Qian, a freshman computer engineering major at University of Maryland, College Park, enjoyed working with his older brother in his first hackathon competition.

"My brother's been doing hackathons and he's asked me to join him. I'm into making stuff, and I think it's pretty cool. It's forcing me to learn stuff," Qian said.

Dean Davis hopes to increase student engagement

By **SARAH Y. KIM**
News & Features Editor

Moses Davis became the new associate dean for diversity and inclusion this July. Davis is responsible for overseeing LGBTQ Life, Campus Ministries, the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Women & Gender Resources. He is also responsible for developing initiatives, programming and committees to foster inclusion of underrepresented students.

Davis is the second person to hold the position; His predecessor held the position for less than a year.

According to Davis, the greatest part of his job is engaging with students.

"I really authentically care," he said. "I want everyone to feel like they belong here."

Prior to coming to Hopkins, Davis worked at the University of Michigan as coordinator of residence education from 2006 to 2007. He went on to work at Penn State University as assistant director of residence life until 2013, after which he became director of the university's multicultural resource center. He has also done his own consulting work and has hosted training around diversity and inclusion.

"I've always been very curious about diversity and inclusion," Davis said. "When I started working, after I graduated from grad school, I started working in residence life, in student affairs. And the diversity stuff was just something that I liked to do."

Davis cautioned against adopting a 'checkbox mentality' towards diversity work.

"Diversity is always a process," he said. "This is my work: my love. I've been doing this work for years."

He reflected on how people have expressed doubts to him over the necessity of diversity offices on campuses, as well as his own careers within those offices.

"It's always the 'you bad, bad person,' and diversity is a bad, humdrum word. 'Here comes the diversity police,'" Davis said. "My way of engaging in it was very much from a space of it doesn't always have to be this hard, horrible conversation."

Providing an example, Davis recalled how he drew the attention of students at another institution to underrepresentation of minorities in American media when he told them that the sitcom series *Fresh Off the Boat* was the only ongoing prime-time television show in the U.S. centered on an Asian family.

"That's why it's so important to engage in diversity stuff," he said. "You realize right in front of you how huge a show like this is and how much pressure it is for the actors to not feel like their story is now the only story."

Davis praised Hopkins for having "visual diversity." He also expressed his appreciation for the flexibility of the University's Roadmap on Diversity and Inclusion.

Drafted in early 2016, the Roadmap outlines four major goals: diversity of the Hopkins community, improving opportunities for Hopkins members of various backgrounds, allowing for the engagement of diverse viewpoints and fostering a climate of respect.

"I don't think it's written to be a perfect document," he said. "It should be a breathing document, to figure out how we all take part of it. And it has to be something that we all take part in... the question is, how do we get folks to see it as a guide, as a map to engage in this work? That's easier said than done."

He urged students to be proactive about helping further the Roadmap's goals and to teach themselves about the experiences of different minority groups.

"That's part of the buy in for folks to realize to sit back and not just point the finger at the diversity office, but to take ownership and say: 'What's my role in this?'" Davis said. "That in itself is a culture change. That kind of stuff is going to take time and conversation."

Davis stressed that he and other administrators could not succeed without student engagement.

"Imagine what happens if we start to say to ourselves, I do have a say in how we make Hopkins more inclusive," Davis said.

He went on to say that as associate dean for diversity and inclusion, he could not make students engage, though he could help fos-

ter interest and awareness around diversity.

"I do believe you can set the stage and do some mandatory pieces; For example, the Identity and Inclusion workshops can create a foundation," he said.

Some students have criticized the University for its lack of faculty diversity as well as socioeconomic and ethnic diversity within the student body. Davis acknowledged these criticisms and hopes to make Hopkins a welcoming environment for underrepresented groups.

"We want to try and recruit and retain the brightest. Diversity is a part of that," he said. "That being said, I'm not going to speak for my admissions folks because I don't know their processes."

He reemphasized that his role primarily revolves around building a welcoming environment for people at Hopkins, and that students should contribute to fostering such an environment.

"You have the right to breathe and be noticed," Davis said. "You could engage with the administration, because you have a voice here."

He encouraged students to invite him to events and to approach him with any concerns they have.

"Working together doesn't mean we always have to agree," he said. "Hear and listen. Those are two different things. Use me as a resource. I want students to know that I'm here and come by and engage."

Office of Admissions restructures, creates new diversity committee

By **SIRI TUMMALA**
Senior Staff Writer

Student groups under the direction of the Office of Undergraduate Admissions have centralized their structure under Blue Key Society (Blue Key), a group which previously focused solely on campus tours. These changes led to the creation of new leadership opportunities and a committee addressing diversity and inclusion.

In addition to the newly created Diversity and Inclusion Committee, the new structure includes a Tour Supervisor Committee, New Member Committee and an International Recruitment Committee.

Blue Key is a student organization that works directly with the admissions office to conduct campus tours and on-campus admissions interviews. Members of the group interact with prospective and incoming students to offer insight into life at Hopkins.

Annabeth Rodriguez, the visitor center student coordinator, wrote in an email to *The News-Letter* that these changes are designed to lend more leadership opportunities to students.

"All volunteer opportunities will be centralized under Blue Key Society. This will allow students to be cross-trained, so they can be engaged in ways that are most meaningful to them," she wrote.

Rodriguez elaborated on the ongoing goals of the organization, such as developing a strong student volunteer group.

"Admissions offers many new campus visit options for prospective students. With this in mind, our goal is to develop a student volunteer base to support expanding these initiatives," Rodriguez wrote. "The student volunteers are the face of the University and we need to ensure that this representation reflects a diverse and inclusive campus community at all programs."

Shannon Miller, the director of on-campus programming for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, explained some of the changes in the Office's structure in an email to *The News-Letter*.

"This year, we are joining our Multicultural Student Volunteers and International Student Liaisons into the larger group to create representation across all programming that reflects our diverse and inclusive community," she wrote. "In the coming year, we plan to further... expand opportunities and best support admissions programming."

Moreover, Miller elaborated on the purpose of the new Diversity and Inclusion Committee that was added this year.

"This committee is a group of students interested in strengthening diverse perspectives, including racial, ideological, and identity

based," she wrote. "Committee members, through engagements and discussions, will help to raise awareness of diversity and inclusion issues in all aspects of recruitment programming."

The University hired Damian Garcia as the associate director for access and diversity in admissions to manage the new committee.

"[Garcia] will continue to ensure the implementation of our diversity programs," Miller wrote. "In addition, he will work on developing new initiatives in admissions programming in order to represent the diverse community and opportunities here at Hopkins to prospective students and families."

Sophomore Grace Troy is a member of Blue Key, giving campus tours and conducting on-campus admission interviews once a week. She commented on the group's new structure.

"It's a streamlined process so we can give prospective students the best version of Hopkins possible, and kids are seeing a unified admissions group," Troy said. "That way any questions they might have are directed to the right people and when you come to Hopkins as a prospective student you get the best experience possible."

Troy said that she appre-

ciated the creation of more opportunities that followed the changes in the organization.

"I do like the idea because with the restructuring it is giving Blue Key members a chance to be more involved with the organization," she said.

Elizabeth Berry, a sophomore, said that she joined Blue Key her freshman year because the tour she took at Hopkins as a prospective student was a deciding factor in her college decision. She said that the new structure is good because of the opportunities it provides.

"Before I felt like it was just a few leadership positions and then the whole general masses," Berry said. "I really like these committees and ways of getting more involved with the organization without being the head of Blue Key or one of the top officers."

She said that she was glad to see the organization taking steps to increase di-

versity and inclusion.

"Last year I got a lot of questions that I had some trouble answering, especially regarding diversity and inclusion," she said. "We do a lot of training with tough questions, but I think having a better idea of how to answer those questions would have been really nice. That's just one of the major things the Diversity and Inclusion Committee is going to really help."

Though she supports steps to increase diversity, Berry said that the University had to be careful in representing diversity and reaching out to international students.

"It needs to be handled correctly," she said. "I don't think there's a general consensus on how to handle it across the board with different colleges. They all have different approaches to diversity, so it's something that we need to be really careful with to make sure that we get right."



COURTESY OF MORGAN OME

The restructured admissions office places a greater emphasis on diversity.

NEWS & FEATURES

New venture capital fund launches at Hopkins



COURTESY OF CONTRARY CAPITAL
Contrary Capital works with 100 student entrepreneurs nationwide.

By **MORGAN OME**
News & Features Editor

Contrary Capital, a university-focused venture capital fund, officially launched on Monday at 55 colleges across the country, including Hopkins. Contrary works with 100 students to find start-ups and projects within their university communities in which they can invest.

Venture capital funds like Contrary Capital typically manage the money of private individuals by investing in emerging companies that are often high risk but have the potential of a high payoff. Will Robbins, a managing partner at Contrary Capital and student at University of Illinois, explained what sets Contrary apart from other investment initiatives.

"We give students a lot of autonomy," he said. "One of the fundamental beliefs we have is that nobody can understand a school's ecosystem and assess their peers as well as a student."

Founded in 2016 by Northeastern University graduate Eric Tarczynski, Contrary aims to support university-affiliated entrepreneurs. Individuals like Martin Eberhard, co-founder of Tesla, and Dan Macklin, co-founder of SoFi, support the organization. According to Robbins,

80 percent of Contrary's limited partners have started companies which are valued at at least \$1 billion.

Student investors at Contrary search for emerging start-ups and projects to invest in. After meeting with entrepreneurs and conducting research, the students can submit proposals to the general organization.

"These students are responsible for sourcing deals. We teach them due diligence, assess investment opportunities, and eventually if we think there's an interesting project then we'll make an investment," Robbins said.

He stressed the importance of entrepreneurs at universities.

"Contrary Capital was born through the realization that there's a gap for university-focused entrepreneurs," he said. "Many of the most impactful technology companies in the last 20 years have either been started at universities or the founders met at universities."

Sophomore Emily Burnette and junior Pava LaPere serve as the two Contrary Capital investors at Hopkins. LaPere became involved with Contrary through Alpha Kappa Psi, a co-ed business fraternity. Burnette joined Contrary after hearing about the firm through a friend on MedHacks, a design competition in which students

create solutions to health problems.

LaPere explained that she and Burnette look to invest in entrepreneurs and companies with ties to Hopkins, whether they are undergraduates, graduate students or professors. As members of TCO Labs, a student-run nonprofit that provides resources and skills to Hopkins entrepreneurs, LaPere and Burnette had access to the organization's contacts and connections.

"It's important when you're looking at this stage of investment to be very ingrained in the ecosystem," she said.

LaPere stated that finding start-ups in which to invest is not difficult, because Hopkins entrepreneurs are connected through many different student organizations.

"We're also very hands on with the new companies that are popping out, especially from teams like MedHacks and HopHacks," she said.

According to Burnette, over the past few years, there has been more emphasis placed on innovation and business at Hopkins.

"There haven't been too many initiatives in the past. Now a lot of them are coming together and growing really significantly," she said.

Burnette emphasized that opportunities for student investors are growing and that the field for venture capital is expanding.

"It is exciting to see how young people can start to get involved," she said. "Venture capital is exciting because you can be on the forefront of all industries as they come up."

Contrary's Hopkins chapter joins other entrepreneurial student groups like Salant Group, Rough Draft Ventures and venture capital fund A-Level Capital. Junior Liam Wall, managing partner at A-Level Capital,

stressed the importance of supporting other student ventures.

"Part of having your ears to the ground and being on top of sourcing is being part of the Hopkins community," he said.

A-Level Capital makes investments ranging from \$10,000 to \$20,000 in private companies founded by current Hopkins students and graduates. Despite similarities that A-Level Capital shares with Contrary, Wall does not see any risk of overlap.

"There's no competition at all," he said. "It's a pretty hot thing to start a tech start-up right now — there's a lot of them out there."

Wall added that Hopkins is an environment ripe for innovation and entrepreneurship.

"For decades, Hopkins has been creating really great research and really great scientists," he said. "I think we've witnessed a transition or revolution where a lot of students are excited about taking risks."

According to Robbins, it is important to understand that different universities often promote different kinds of start-up companies.

"A school like Hopkins has a lot of excellent medical tech startups or healthcare startups, whereas a school like the University of Illinois will have a lot of pure software engineering startups," he said.

He added that universities should promote student entrepreneurs because they make financial contributions to the school.

"A lot of these schools are now realizing that people will go found a successful company in college and then 10 or 20 years later make a big donation or come back and help them in a meaningful way," he said.

Who benefits from the new Purple Line rail?

By **CINDY CHO**
For *The News-Letter*

The Maryland Department of Transportation began construction on the Purple Line on August 28 after over two decades of planning. The Purple Line is a 16-mile light rail with 21 stops between Montgomery County and Prince George's County of Maryland.

Development of the Purple Line project began in 2002, but concerns over its \$2 billion cost and construction have delayed the process.

Though many have welcomed new transportation services that would help ease daily commutes, others criticized MD Governor Larry Hogan's decision to support the Purple Line while cancelling the construction of Red Line, a proposed light rail that would have served predominantly African-American low income neighborhoods in Baltimore.

In 2015, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Legal Defense and Education Fund filed a complaint alleging that the decision to cancel Red Line discriminated against African-Americans.

According to the NAACP, the Red Line could have alleviated problems with transportation access for housing and jobs in low- and mid-income communities in Baltimore.

The NAACP also claimed that since many African-Americans living in Baltimore rely on public transportation for job security, the decision to cancel the Red Line disproportionately affected those individuals. The U.S. Department of Transportation closed the complaint without citing any reasons in July.

Matthew Crenson, a professor emeritus of political science and author of *Baltimore: A Political History*, said that a lack of reliable transportation has been a persistent problem in the City for the last 200 years.

"This cross-town line would have been important to city residents wanting to get to and from their jobs," he said. "Cross-town transit in Baltimore has been a problem since the 18th century."

Crenson explained the possible underlying political motives involved in constructing the Purple Line.

"Governor Hogan killed [the Red Line] without much thought — he called it a 'boondoggle,'" he said. "People in the Washington suburbs tend to be on average better educated than people in Baltimore city. They probably turn out to vote more often, and that's where Hogan grew up."

He added that the Red Line project would have benefitted Baltimore's resi-

dents.

"I talked to some of the people that worked on its design," he said. "They said they had looked at all the alternatives, and this was the best way that would have brought Baltimore hundreds of millions of dollars in federal aid, created many jobs and, most importantly, it would have been a rapid transit line that actually served the city's residents."

According to the Maryland Department of Transportation, the purple line's construction will create around 6,300 jobs, and the investment is anticipated to spark revitalization and development in other parts of the country. Proponents of the project also argue that the rail will be responsible for removing 17,000 cars from the road every day, which will save approximately one million gallons of gas each year.

Chris Doherty, a spokesperson for Purple Line partners, explained the potential positive impact that the new light rail would have for communities in the D.C. suburbs.

"The Purple Line has been talked about since at least the mid 1980s," he said. "We think it's going to bring a lot of benefit to the residents along the corridor of service and create new economic development opportunities. It'll be one more transportation option for one of the most heavily populated areas of the state."

The Purple Line can also impact students who live in the Washington, D.C. suburbs and could potentially provide swifter transportation for those who need to commute to D.C.

Junior Thaara Shankar, who is originally from Rockville MD, a suburb of D.C., explained that the new light rail might be helpful to students attending Maryland universities.

"[The Purple Line] would help my friends who go to University of Maryland at College Park go home easier and would probably help people in Bethesda and Silver Spring," Shankar wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "But for Hopkins students with internships in D.C., I think using the MARC train service would still be the easiest."

In September, the U.S. Department of Transportation allocated \$900 million to the Purple Line, in addition to the \$325 million it had previously signed off on. The Department of Transportation contributed funds in the hope that other states would be inspired to take on large-scale public projects.

The Transportation Department projects that there will be 74,000 daily riders on the purple line by 2040. Service is set to begin around the spring of 2022.

Scholars weigh in on upcoming German elections

By **JULIANA BERGER**
For *The News-Letter*

Three scholars participated in a roundtable discussion on the upcoming German elections on Tuesday, Sept. 19. Funded by the German Embassy, the conversation focused on the political climate in Germany, the rise of right-wing parties and Germany's role in the European Union.

The University's German Studies program and student-run think tank European Horizons ran the event.

The panelists included Hopkins Political Science Professor Nicolas Jabko, German Marshall Fund (a non-partisan non-profit) Fellow Peter Sparding and Brookings Institute Senior Fellow Constanze Stelzenmüller.

Junior Alexandra Marksteiner, the president of European Horizons, introduced the panelists and moderator, History Professor Hanno Balz.

"The overarching goal was to give a campus that isn't entirely Euro-focused a bit more of an insight to what German politics is about," she said.

The federal elections, which will take place on Sept. 25, will allow voters to elect a new Parliament called the Bundestag. Mem-

bers of parliament then elect a chancellor. Many expect Angela Merkel, the current chancellor and a member of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), to be re-elected over Martin Schulz, who represents the Social Democratic Party (SPD).

In addition, some think that the far-right wing party Alternative für Deutschland (AFD), will gain influence in Parliament, although the party has never held a seat in the Bundestag before.

Balz asked the panelists why AFD's popularity is growing and whether the party's rise is part of a global trend towards populism. Stelzenmüller said it was a combination of two major popular sentiments.

"[There is a] sense of a loss of control over their own lives, over their futures... and the sense that the government is losing control," Stelzenmüller said. "That is compounded by a sense of loss of identity."

In addition, Balz asked Sparding whether he thinks American politics will affect the September election.

Sparding responded that Merkel has made it clear that she is not operating under Trump's orders.

"In June, Merkel gave a speech in Munich where she



SAMANTHA SETO/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF
Panelists discussed the role of far-right parties in German politics.

hinted at her shock, and she basically said 'I just came back from the big European and NATO meetings, and it looks like we have to get our act together. We're going to be a bit on our own,'" he said.

Some argue that Merkel is moving the CDU towards the center, leaving room for more radical parties to develop. Others believe that the increase in extreme groups may lead to some very unusual coalitions between parties in order to create groups that can effectively enact legislation.

Jabko predicts that Merkel's political alliances will not change drastically.

"Most likely it will be a continuation of the grand coalition in which case you would have a pro-Europe-

an kind of policy," he said.

Marksteiner agreed with Jabko's statement, noting that although Merkel's re-election is to be expected, other parties may gain influence.

"Not everything is set in stone," she said.

Freshman Katherine Gillis went to the panel for her "German Elements I" class. She felt that the panel helped her connect European and American politics.

"They drew parallels between Angela Merkel and Hillary Clinton, both people who thought they were going to be shoo-ins for the elections, and they drew parallels between far-right wing parties in Europe and far-right wing parties in the United States," she said.

NEWS & FEATURES

Ban on new arts and service student groups draws criticism



COURTESY OF ALYSSA WOODEN

There are currently about 350 to 400 student organizations on campus.

CLUBS, FROM A1

HAP Director Eric Beatty said that while there are no redundant arts groups, HAP has faced logistical challenges while running 22 dance groups and 12 a cappella groups with almost 500 members. According to Beatty, this was a major factor in the decision to stop accepting new performing arts groups.

In an email to *The News-Letter*, Beatty explained the difficulties of finding time and space for performances.

"Restrictions on both space and time for practice and performances have caused challenges for these groups, which need specialized space for most rehearsals and major performances," he wrote.

He addressed the impact renovations on Shriver Auditorium and the auditorium have on the space available for performing arts groups.

"It was clear that we simply couldn't absorb additional groups without exacerbating these issues," Beatty wrote.

Beatty also addressed time constraints on per-

forming arts organizations. Because showcases tend to take place during the final few weeks of the semester, groups are often competing for performance times.

He said that the University could alleviate some concerns by investing in an arts auditorium that seated 350 to 400.

Sophomore Erin Chen tried to start a new community service student organization during the spring of 2017 but was denied. Coming into Hopkins, one of Chen's goals was to start a Special Olympics Club.

"Special Olympics is a global organization that gives athletes with mental disabilities an opportunity to participate in sports," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "The goal of the club was to organize groups of volunteers to go to events on Baltimore, organize and host events at Hopkins."

Chen addressed the impact of the restriction on new student groups on the student body, particularly on first-year students.

"I know many students will be able to join already existing clubs so it will not

affect them as much, but it prevents some students from bringing whatever unique interest and skill to the community in Hopkins and Baltimore," Chen wrote.

Chen understands the reasons behind the restriction but believes that CSC could have addressed difficulties through other measures.

"It is unfair to prevent new clubs from forming because of former unproductive ones," she wrote. "The CSC, instead of saying 'no clubs can be formed,' could have made it more selective with tougher vetting to prevent unproductive clubs from being created."

Chen also brought up the emphasis the Admissions Office places on how easy it is to start new clubs at Hopkins.

"To prevent any new clubs from forming really goes against what this school advertised when many students applied here: that it is very easy to create clubs at Hopkins," she wrote.

Junior Matthias Gompers started his own a cappella group, The Gilman Underground, during this past academic year. Gompers agrees with Beatty on the difficulty in finding performance and practice space.

"Unless you're willing to just take a random classroom in some random building, there aren't a lot of practice rooms," Gompers said.

Gompers is also on the executive board of a service group under the CSC. He

spoke about how he recognized difficulties the administration face in managing the numerous student groups.

"Logistically it probably is hard for the CSC and for Eric and the HAP to just manage all of those groups," he said.

Fricke does not believe that the restriction will have an impact on the student body's engagement with the Baltimore community, instead emphasizing the importance of having a strong existing set of groups.

Grier elaborated on opportunities available for students through the CSC's new HopServe50 program. Individually or through a group, students can register their community service work with HopServe50 or look for new opportunities on the Community Bulletin.

"This is in response to

"Student organizations have not been serving as consistently as they had."

— GIA GRIER, CSC ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

students who have been asking for ways to serve that are not tied to a student group," she said. "We want to make sure that the groups and this new initiative complement each other and do not end up competing for the same pool of students."

Grier emphasized the importance of students with similar ideas working together and with similar existing organizations to make a greater impact on the community. After the

restriction on the formation of new student groups had already been applied, Grier was approached by three groups requesting an exception.

"We referred them to the existing group that they had things in common with," she said.

Beatty said in an interview with *The News-Letter* that he is uncertain of whether the restrictions for arts groups will be in place after the 2017-18 academic year.

"I think the potential for accepting new groups will depend less on the existing current student groups unless for some reason one group decides to disband, and that has happened," he said.

On the other hand, Grier wrote in an email to *The News-Letter* that new community service organiza-

tions will be allowed to form from the 2018-19 academic year onwards, though the CSC will be working more directly with student leaders to prevent organizations from becoming ineffective.

"We want to work with our student leaders to establish new guidelines to enhance the following areas: consistency in service, quality of support for our community partners, and learning outcomes for students," she wrote.

SGA plans initiatives to engage students

By YEJI KIM
For *The News-Letter*

In the Student Government Association (SGA)'s weekly meeting, representatives discussed upcoming legislation regarding University staff hiring policies and student mental health.

Executive Vice President AJ Tsang presented the Ban the Box Initiative resolution in support of the Ban the Box campaign, a nationwide effort to eliminate criminal conviction checkboxes from college applications.

In passing the legislation unanimously, SGA encouraged the University to declare its support for the initiative and to adhere to its requirements, including removing the criminal conviction box from the Common Application.

Sophomore Class President Anthony Boutros addressed concerns that the Ban the Box campaign would enable high offenders and sex offenders to come to campus.

"The legislation itself is very comprehensive and gives many institutions the power to regulate which crimes or previous felonies would not be allowed," Boutros said. "At Hopkins, if this legislation passes, it will protect students and not allow convicted sex offenders to come."

Boutros also introduced the National Voter Registration Bill as a way to promote civic engagement on campus.

Turbovote is a service that facilitates the process of voter registration and sends out reminders about upcoming elections.

Tsang said that if Turbvote gained popularity, SGA would likely direct their attention to other groups such as international students.

SGA hopes to promote Turbvote with two banners to be used at all civic engagement events on campus.

Sophomore Class Senators Alex Walinskas and Maya Foster introduced the Calm, an app that would help students relax and meditate by listening to music or stories to help them go to sleep.

Calm would also provide students who are less willing to go to the Counseling Center with an opportunity to share their thoughts.

"If a lot of students end up using it, then Calm is going to try to cut a good deal with the University to see if the University would like to offer it," Walinskas said. "Otherwise, they plan on offering a 50 to 70 percent student discount."

Additionally, Newly elected Senior Class Senator Trevor Lee was inaugurated, following senior Joshan Bajaj's resignation last week.

SGA concluded this week's meeting with possible future legislation, which included a proposal to stream sports on the University's Organization for Responsive Campus Advertising (OrcaTV).

Hopkins and Goucher will close joint Russian program after 47 years

RUSSIAN, FROM A1

wrote. "The Kriger School instead decided to use its resources to expand the on-campus offerings in Russian language."

Schildbach also explained why Hopkins leadership had decided not to inform Samilenko and Czczulin about the program.

"Because the instructors are on the faculty at Goucher, it would be inappropriate for anyone in the Hopkins administration to be discussing the program directly with them," he wrote.

The program is now under the direction of the Cen-

ter for Language Education (CLE), a Hopkins department established in 1992. The CLE does not offer any undergraduate majors but does offer language classes to fulfill credits for other majors like International Studies and East Asian Studies.

Samilenko, a tenured professor at Goucher, and Goucher professor Annalisa Czczulin are the only two professors who teach Russian language courses at Hopkins. Both plan to return to teaching at Goucher full time after the 2017-2018 academic year.

Although changes to the program were first

discussed over a year ago, students were not officially notified about the decision until this September.

Schildbach explained why he decided not to communicate the decision with Hopkins students.

"Because... any current majors or minors will not be significantly affected by the change," Schildbach wrote. "I... [had] not yet formally communicated anything to the students."

Although Samilenko found out about the plans last fall, she chose not to tell Russian students at Hopkins in order to maintain a positive atmosphere.

"We didn't want to demoralize the remaining three semesters," she said. "We wanted to use the time productively."

Samilenko and Czczulin hope to explore additional possibilities for Hopkins students who want to continue Russian after the program ends.

"The two of us have spent almost an entire year trying to figure out ways in which we can accommodate our Hopkins students in new arrangements at Goucher," Samilenko wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

According to Schildbach, the CLE plans to continue offering Russian language classes.

"The current plans are to expand the language courses so that we will regularly offer language instruction through the third year," he wrote.

Who the instructors of those classes will be is unclear. With regards to Samilenko and Czczulin, Schildbach said that Hopkins would "no longer have the same access [to them]."

Students like senior Ben Costello, an interdisciplinary studies major combining Russian and music theory, said that he had not been informed that the program would no longer be offered.

"The administration has been very unclear to professors and the students, not communicating with the professors what their actual status will be going forward, not communicating with the students," he

said.

Junior International Studies major Caroline Lupetini spoke about Russia's growing importance in international politics.

"As long as these issues in Ukraine and Crimea and Europe and in our own political system keep perpetuating themselves, it's going to be a crucial language to study," she said.

Costello criticized the University for cutting a humanities program.

"Everyone generally is really really happy with the instructors and the quality of the instruction," he said. "My best guess is that it's really just the general way that Hopkins is treating the humanities right now."

Simes believes that a strong Russian program is necessary to maintain the University's reputation.

"Russia is a top national security priority for the United States," he said. "I don't really see how you can have an effective international relations education without at least having an opportunity to learn about Russia."

He also said that students will continue to talk with administration so that students have a say in the future of the program.

"If it turns out that this decision is done in the wrong way, then of course we're going to try and do everything we can to make our voices heard," he said.

Despite attempts by *The News-Letter*, the Goucher administration could not be reached for comment.

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Researcher talks sex work and gentrification



SAMANTHA SETO/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Katie Hail-Jares shared stories from sex workers and researchers in D.C.

By KATY WILNER
For *The News-Letter*

Katie Hail-Jares, editor of the book *Challenging Perspectives on Street-Based Sex Work*, discussed her research findings on gentrification and its effects on sex workers at Red Emma's Bookstore Coffeehouse on Tuesday, Sept. 19.

Hail-Jares is part of the organization Helping Individual Prostitutes Survive (HIPS), whose mission is to provide a safer working environment for sex workers. HIPS distributes condoms and clean syringes. It also provides free HIV testing. Hail-Jares became involved with the organization when she moved to Washington, D.C.

Hail-Jares explained that the driving force behind her research is her desire to publicize her findings with the hope of helping the communities she studies.

"Once data is collected, very often, that's where community involvement ends," Hail-Jares said. "After a study is complete, it's important to bring people back to the community and report on their concerns."

After working at HIPS for three years, she offered to do an analysis on "bad date" statistics. A "bad date" refers to a negative interaction between a sex worker and their client.

"I had been working at prisons since I was 18," Hail-Jares said. "I was very interested in learning about harm reduction."

Challenging Perspectives on Street-Based Sex Work is a compilation of research and different stories written by various authors. The book alternates between chapters written by fellow researchers and by people involved in sex work.

As opposed to many popular books about sex work that focus deeply on violence and drug dependency, Hail-Jares' book spotlights gentrification, specifically in the D.C. area.

For her research study, Hail-Jares obtained oral histories from about 20 sex workers who operate near a new condominium complex.

She explained how the sex workers working in

these gentrified neighborhoods acquired safety measures that were previously unavailable to them.

"Participants [in the study] revealed that they used the condo's security cameras and guards to reduce their exposure to victimization," Hail-Jares said. "One woman mentioned that when the condos were built, she began to arrange all her curbside pickups from a specific location, because at that location the car's license plate numbers could be read from security cameras."

However, Hail-Jares discussed the serious negative repercussions of gentrification in areas where sex workers are located. She noted that the people who were moving into the condos called the police more often, with 10 percent calling over a hundred times in the past year.

"[The participants] encountered a lot more transphobic and hate language," Hail-Jares said. "The workers in this area responded that they weren't as optimistic about their future."

Freshman Alex Eremiev enjoyed Hail-Jares' talk.

"Everything was kind of tied together by the theme of activism," Eremiev said. "I'd really like to attend another event."

Bloomberg Distinguished Professor Lawrence Jackson discussed his new book *Chester B. Himes: A Biography* on Thursday at Barnes & Noble. Jackson, a professor of history and English, talked about the life and influence of Himes, a mid-20th century African-American novelist and member of the Harlem Renaissance movement.

Jackson previously worked in studying the history of African American literature and culture. In 2002, he published a biography on Himes' contemporary, Richard Wright,

Students await decision on fossil fuel divestment

REFUEL, FROM A1

saying it was comprehensive and met all of the expectations laid out in Refuel's 2015 proposal.

Weese also emphasized that PIIAC's recommendations should not mark the end of student activism around divestment and that Refuel must hold the University accountable if the Board of Trustees votes in support of the recommendations.

"Now is a great time for organizing and pulling together all our partners," Weese said. "The 30-day period is a key time to show how much student support there is and to make sure that students and faculty and student organizations don't accept PIIAC's decision as a finish line."

Current Refuel President Atlas Elawad said that Refuel is not yet done with its mission and urged students to stay engaged with the Board of Trustees.

"We can't take this victory and sit out on the sidelines," Elawad said. "All of us need to stay on top of this and push the Board of Trustees to make the right vote."

Elawad commended the report for holding the University responsible as a moral leader and said he was surprised by the extent of the recommendations.

In the report, PIIAC urges the University to divest from Carbon Underground 200 (CU 200) companies, which lead in fossil fuel consumption. However, Elawad noted that the recommendations targeted companies that were not part of the CU 200 and looked beyond withdrawing direct investments.

"What we were initially asking for was a relatively more reserved divestment strategy," Elawad said. "Our proposal called for them to remove their direct investments in Carbon Underground 200 companies... it was a really robust divestment strategy that we

hadn't considered mostly because we didn't have a firm understanding of the University's finances and their investment portfolio."

Kyra Meko, president of environmental advocacy group Students for Environmental Action (SEA), believes that the Board of Trustees has no valid reasons to vote against PIIAC's recommendations.

"It's consistent with [the University's] sustainability goals and the mission of Hopkins as a public health university," Meko said.

The report outlines some arguments both for and against divestment. Some say that divestment is unnecessary because it will have little to no direct financial impact on fossil fuel companies, though others argue that it is more important for the University to set a moral example.

Some have criticized PIIAC's decision, like Bruce Hamilton, a professor emeritus in the economics department who is opposed to fossil fuel divestment. He believes that people still rely heavily on fossil fuels in their daily lives, and divestment fails to appropriately address climate change.

"To me, the approach to that as an economist is a carbon tax," Hamilton said. "As a concerned citizen, I think the approach is to individually reduce our carbon footprints. That's why I drive an electric car, that's why I don't turn more lights on than I need."

Hamilton said that he supported the University's divestment from tobacco companies and South African companies during apartheid in the late '80s and '90s. However, he feels that fossil fuel divestment is not a sensible political statement because it targets the CU 200.

"The villains are the customers rather than the providers," Hamilton said. "As long as there are custom-

ers out there trying to buy fossil fuels, irrespective of what Hopkins does, people will provide it. The way to attack the problem is to make it less economically viable for customers to say yes, I want fossil fuels. As soon as we do that, the energy companies will stop using fossil fuels."

He commended the University for past sustainability efforts and suggested it take alternative approaches to combating climate change.

"I could imagine the University offering grants to students to come up with steps that the University could take to reduce its own carbon footprint," Hamilton said.

Weese believes that individuals are not the primary contributors to carbon emissions.

"Until we make changes to encourage that system to switch to more renewable and sustainable forms of energy, it doesn't matter how much we reduce our footprint, because we're still going to be depending on our fossil fuel divestment system," she said.

Meko said that while individual action is also important, divesting from companies is an appropriate starting point.

"We have a responsibility to use [our] endowment in a socially responsible way," she said.

Weese agreed that the

University should set an example for others.

"Hopkins knows the power and stake that they have in Baltimore and Maryland and just in general," she said. "[Divestment is] a statement bigger than just our usage as an individual university, and it's more on a national and even global level."

While Meko expects that the Board of Trustees will follow through with PIIAC's recommendations, Weese is more uncertain, pointing out that several members of the Board of Trustees have ties to the fossil fuel industry.

"If there is a conflict of interest, they are not allowed to vote," she said. "That will be something that Refuel Our Future will have to hold the Board members accountable for."

Elawad is also unsure of whether the Board will vote for the recommendations but points to the University's divestment in past decades as a sign in Refuel's favor.

"If history is any example, with previous recommendations from PIIAC regarding socially responsible investing, they will follow through," he said. "We will certainly do everything in our power as Refuel our Future and as the student body to make sure they follow through with this recommendation."



FILE PHOTO

Last November, Refuel Our Future protested outside of Garland Hall.

Professor discusses life of Harlem Renaissance writer Chester Himes

By JOHN SPANOS
For *The News-Letter*

who was also an African-American writer.

Jackson was first introduced to Himes in college when he read *Lonely Crusade*.

"*Lonely Crusade* was another one of these novels that no one was talking about," he said. "It was such a remarkable treatment of so many of the issues that continue to have this extraordinary resonance in our own era. Just to name two examples: the crisis of race and the labor movement."

While traveling in Europe in 2004, Jackson said he visited the home of Michel Fabre, a scholar of African-American literature. Fabre co-authored a biography of Himes, in which Himes is compared to prominent black authors James Baldwin and Richard Wright. Although Jackson appreciated Fabre's book, he wanted to write a more extensive biography of Himes.

"I felt like Chester deserves a big book," he said. "I did have to remove about 60,000 words from the book to meet the contractual stipulations that I agreed to. That's a wrenching process for any writer. Nonetheless, I think that

we have a product that enables readers to get close to Chester Himes: his stories, his encounters, his struggles and his achievements."

Jackson traveled to Mississippi, South Carolina, Missouri and Ohio in order to better understand Himes' family and background. In Ohio, Himes committed a series of crimes that resulted in a 20-year sentence of hard labor.

"I spent quite a bit of time trying to figure out his life and the rhythm of life in prison," Jackson said. "Chester Himes sort of creates the template that we're very familiar with today of black male going to prison and writing his way out."

During his sentence, Himes witnessed firsthand a fire in which more than 300 men were either burned alive or died from smoke inhalation when the Ohio State Penitentiary burned in 1930.

"We rightfully talk today about mass incarceration, the prison industrial complex and ways that especially African Americans and Latinos are super exploited by these forces," Jackson said. "But it is

worthwhile to remember that when Chester Himes went to prison in December 1928, African Americans were about five percent of the total Ohio population, and they were always 25-30 percent of the penitentiary."

According to Jackson, Himes' criminal past made him a unique character.

"He often compared the literary life to prize fighting... saying a fighter fights and a writer writes," Jackson said.

Jackson explained that unlike many African-American authors of the time, Himes refused to compromise his beliefs for the sake of being popular.

In addition, Himes often faced pressure to offer solutions to racism, which he did not do in his writing. Many criticized the book *If He Hollers Let Him Go*, which explored interracial sexual desires.

"Critics thought that the book was powerful and important but that the book did not offer a solution to the race problem," he said. "Black writers in the 1940s were thought to have primarily been given an opportunity to address the American public to resolve

the race problem."

Sophomore Jack Klein said Jackson's talk inspired him to learn more about Himes.

"I really liked how Chester Himes was never apologetic," he said. "He was not someone who was going to dance around the subject or try to tell something as it was not, he was telling it as he saw it. I definitely would like to read more."

Senior Rowan Houlihan held similar respect for Himes.

"I like his attitude as a person in not abiding by what the white man was telling him to do... even though that was totally atypical from his time period," she said.

Houlihan added that she appreciates Jackson for shedding light on Himes' work because she feels that individuals like him are sometimes underrepresented.

"Most people are familiar with the Harlem Renaissance and the works that came out of that, but you kind of get a gap in literature and culture between the '20s and '60s when it comes to black movements, literary and otherwise," she said.

Errata: Sept. 7 Edition

In the Sept. 7, 2017 edition of *The News-Letter*, junior Elizabeth Duncan was not introduced. Also, the Affordable Care Act was misidentified as the American Healthcare Act.

The News-Letter regrets this error.

NEWS & FEATURES

Center for Student Success offers individualized aid



FILE PHOTO
CSS offers several programs to aid students during their time at Hopkins.

CSS, FROM A1
Blue Jays Realizing Individual Scholarly Excellence (RISE) also works specifically with freshmen. The program is an effort between the CSS and the Athletics Department and is designed to help student athletes manage their unique demands.

Through the CSS, RISE provides access to individualized academic planning, supplemental tutoring, mentorship and a first-year seminar series.

The Johns Hopkins Underrepresented in Medical Professions (JUMP) and the Mentoring Assistance Peer Program (MAPP) are both mentoring programs that work with freshmen.

JUMP helps provide mentorship for minorities and underrepresented groups in pursuing careers in the health or medical field. MAPP is a year-round program for first year students designed to help them build community, transition to the University, and foster academic success.

Junior Anne Li was involved in both JUMP and MAPP as a freshman. She is currently a MAPP leader, and reflected on her experiences as a mentee.

"As a freshman myself I didn't really have anyone else to ask personal or just general questions to besides my mentor," Anne Li said.

Anne Li explained that she feels the MAPP program is unique from other mentorship programs at the University because mentors provide individual mentorship throughout the year and help foster a sense of community for new students.

However, Anne Li said that the one potential downside of MAPP is that it consumes a lot of the mentors' times.

"I think the biggest concern with it would be the time commitment because mentors do need to take the time out of their schedules to plan things, programs, events that our mentees do," Anne Li said.

Not all programs within

the CSS target freshmen. For example, the Second Year Experience (SYE) was created last year to assist sophomores.

Aaron Rutledge, director of the SYE program, stated that University looked at patterns among second-year students both nationally and within Hopkins.

"[Students] may or may not be familiar with the sophomore slump," Rutledge said. "There's research out there that says [sophomores] tend to feel abandoned by the University."

Specifically, Rutledge noted that sophomores may face greater academic pressure as they move on to more advanced coursework, in addition to different financial and social pressures.

Rutledge also explained that the involvement in the group has grown since last year. Students can become involved by applying to join the SYE Cohort, a group of students who have access to SYE resources.

"I'm seeing growth in engagement, which I think signifies positive impact," Rutledge said.

Sophomore Victoria Li, a member of the Cohort, confirmed Rutledge's claim that SYE addresses student

needs.

"[SYE] definitely fills this void of sorts and creates a sense of community," Victoria Li said.

For sophomore Simon Zeng, SYE has helped him with his post-college plans.

"From my personal experience, the purpose of SYE is to pump up sophomores and get them aware of post-undergraduate life," Zeng said.

He added that many students are unsure of what they will do after Hopkins.

"For the majority of the people at Hopkins, the whole purpose of the last five years of their life was to get into an undergraduate school... they've kind of lost sight of what's after that," he said.

As the CSS is new, upperclassmen did not have some of these resources as freshmen and sophomores.

Senior Aneesh Patankar believes other similar resources at the University may be easier to access than those at the CSS.

"Because I haven't even heard of the CSS and it was founded so recently... I would think

that other resources are more widely known and accessible than this one," Patankar wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

"I'm seeing growth in engagement, which I think signifies positive impact."

— AARON RUTLEDGE,
DIRECTOR OF SYE

MSE announces fall speaker series lineup

By JACOB TOOK
News & Features Editor

The Milton S. Eisenhower (MSE) Symposium, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, announced its 2017 speaker series on Wednesday. The speakers include actor and comedian Hasan Minhaj, Ohio governor John Kasich, MSNBC political commentator Joy-Ann Reid and several organizers of the Women's March.

Since Shriver Hall is undergoing renovations, MSE will host its speakers in other spaces on campus. Kasich and the Women's March organizers will speak at Hodson Hall, while Reid will speak at Mudd Hall. The location for Minhaj remains undetermined.

Last year the MSE Symposium required students to reserve tickets online in order to regulate attendance when former presidential candidate Bernie Sanders spoke. This year, while all of the events remain free, tickets will be required to hear Kasich and Minhaj.

According to MSE, the goal for this year's speaker series is to challenge students to explore new perspectives rather than reinforce their established ideas.

Millions demonstrated in cities around the world as a part of the Women's March, the largest single-day protest in history, which took place the day after President

Donald Trump's inauguration in January. The organizers of the demonstration, Bob Bland, Tamika Mallory, Linda Sarsour and Carmen Perez will visit Hopkins on Oct. 2.

Political commentator and journalist Joy-Ann Reid will bring her experiences working in the media and with various political campaigns to campus on Nov. 2. Currently, she serves as a political analyst for MSNBC, where she also hosts the weekend talk show *AM Joy*.

Republican John Kasich served in the House of Representatives in the '80s and '90s before hosting a political talk show on Fox News in the 2000s. He was elected governor of Ohio in 2010 and was reelected in 2014.

In the run-up to the 2016 presidential election, Kasich was one of many candidates vying for the Republican Party's nomination and was the last to drop out of the race.

Comedian and actor Hasan Minhaj, best known for his work on *The Daily Show*, a late-night satirical talk show hosted by Trevor Noah, will speak on Dec. 6.

In 2017, Minhaj headlined the 2017 White House Correspondents' Dinner and released his first stand-up special, *Hasan Minhaj: Homecoming King*, which addressed his experiences as a first-generation Muslim Indian-American.

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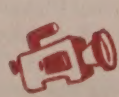


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Stop comparing Arrow's complex female heroes



Catherine Palmer
Catwoman

Since its premiere in 2012, *Arrow* has brought many strong, complex, vulnerable, funny and fierce women to life. While the show centers on The Green Arrow, Oliver Queen (Stephen Amell), the showrunners have never pretended that he's the only one fans are tuning in for.

Most importantly, *Arrow*'s leading ladies have always supported one another. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for many *Arrow* fans, who quite harshly compare and rank the show's female characters on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Tumblr.

On the show, there's friction between the women at times, but it's always portrayed in a very real and very mature way (i.e. not with catfights). When Sara Lance (Caity Lotz), returns to Starling City six years after her presumed death at sea while on a romantic tryst with her older sister Laurel's (Katie Cassidy) boyfriend (Oliver), the sisterly reunion is tense to say the least.

Laurel is suddenly forced to confront the anger and jealousy she never dealt with after the shipwreck. After all, how could she resent a little sister who'd paid for her betrayal with her life? Oliver and Sara resuming their relationship pushes Laurel to the breaking point. Sara is heartbroken and doesn't know how to save a relationship that Laurel seems to have already given up on.

Eventually, Laurel tearfully admits to her sister that she hasn't been okay since the wreck, and that seeing Sara return "so beautiful and so alive" reminded her how much she isn't "those things... anymore." Laurel begs her for forgiveness, and Sara immediately hugs her.

Apparently, this scene was unsatisfactory for many fans, though. Some maintain that Sara is a heartless you-know-what who Laurel never should have reconciled with, and others call Laurel a whiny drama queen. These criticisms are particularly ironic given that arguably the two biggest themes in *Arrow* are empathy and forgiveness.

The female characters most often pitted against each other are Laurel and Felicity Smoak (Emily Bett Rickards), because they are Oliver's primary love interests. However, Laurel and Felicity never actually let Oliver come between them out of their love and respect for one another.

Felicity encourages Laurel on her journey to becoming Black Canary in season three. She reminds Laurel to accept herself and her abilities instead of comparing herself to her sister who was The Canary in season two. She also doesn't feel threatened when Laurel

later joins Team Arrow.

Laurel in turn provides emotional support to Felicity when she becomes paralyzed and must endure a series of surgeries in season four. Later that year, Laurel tells Oliver that he has always been the "love of [her] life." But she always knew that Felicity was Oliver's, and she was "really glad" that he had found her.

However, in 2017, many fans are apparently still frustrated by the lack of a cliched love triangle. Laurel seems to get the brunt of the hate for being seen as weak and annoying and consequently not good enough for Oliver.

On the other hand, many fans seem to think that a condition of being pro-Laurel is hating Felicity. They say she's not as a strong as Laurel because she's just tech support instead of a street fighter or she's too mean to Oliver or she's selfish.

Fans, of course, can dislike characters. But it's nonsensical to hate a character because they're not the same as another character or to hate them because you don't think they're a good match for another character.

Laurel and Felicity are also frequently compared in terms of their relationships with the other Queen sibling, Thea (Willa Holland). Many fans see a need to determine which woman cares more about Thea and to villainize the other.

Laurel has known Thea since she was born and is a loving, devoted big sister to her. When Thea's life spirals out of control after Oliver's return, Laurel sets her on a better path, and from then on, the pair only get closer.

Laurel is Thea's rock and the only constant in her life. In season four, she takes Thea in after Oliver leaves town.

Felicity meets Thea through Oliver but forms her own relationship with her over the seasons and always looks out for her. When Thea gets kidnapped in season two, Felicity hacks into the cellphones of people who were at Verdant, the nightclub where Thea was last seen.

Felicity "eyeballs" every photo on every phone for any sign of Thea. John Diggle (David Ramsey) says in awe that "there must have been thousands." Felicity replies simply, "It's Thea."

Felicity supports Thea at the end of season three when her brother joins the League of Assassins and is seemingly lost to them forever. She also doesn't cut Thea off after her engagement to Oliver ends in season four. She continues to be a loving, supportive presence in Thea's life.

So do Laurel and Felicity have the same relationship with Thea? Of course not. They're all different people. But how about instead of trying to turn their relationships into a competition, we celebrate the fact that Thea has two women in her life who love and support her?

We finally are getting more strong, complex, vulnerable and independent women represented on television. They don't tear each other down on-screen. We should follow their example off-screen.

A tale of two cities: advice for those missing home



Dear Jenny

Anonymous Advice Column

Nice to meet you. I'm Jenny S. Hopkins, and I'll be writing this advice column for as long as you send in questions. (So please send them!)

Jenny is not my real name. It's a pseudonym I adopt to foster intimacy with you, my reader, but I definitely am a real person.

In this column, I'll answer your questions about life at Hopkins: the highs, the lows and everything in between. I know that the Homewood campus can sometimes seem like an overwhelming place. You might feel like you can't reach out to those around you or that others won't understand.

That's where I step in. I've had my share of funny, weird and difficult experiences, but I've always felt that I've learned something from them. If you have any issues or problems, I'm here to offer my opinion and guidance. Basically I'm try to be like HERO but for your emotional needs.

This week we have a question from a student who is trying to balance two homes: one here in Baltimore and the other back in their hometown.

Dear Jenny,

My mom just moved to an entirely new state, and I brought all the rest of my

stuff from home and moved it to Baltimore. Last year when I thought about home, I thought about my familiar house and my friends and memories from high school, but now everything is here.

That's kind of intense, because it feels like I don't have any kind of safety net or anything to fall back on. I like Baltimore, but what should I do to make myself feel more comfortable calling this city home?

From,

Searching for home in Baltimore

Dear Searching,

Reading your letter was like reading from my freshman year diary. I know exactly how you feel! And I just want to tell you that it's taken me two years, but now Baltimore is the place where I feel most secure and happy. To me, that makes Baltimore my home.

Searching, you may currently feel a little lost and disoriented after moving your entire life to Baltimore. I think every college student goes through that to some extent. I certainly did.

When I first came to Hopkins, I didn't think I would ever think of Baltimore as home. It was too foreign and too far. I didn't know who I was, and I didn't feel secure in my identity.

As you wrote, it can feel daunting to be without a safety net. But the beauty of lacking a safety net is that you're forced to adapt and to change. Personal growth isn't a choice anymore: It's a necessity.

I'm grateful that I wasn't able to go home during weekends or breaks, because I spent more time trying to feel comfortable with

myself and with the city. But at the same time I missed my parents, the daily drive to school, the doughnut shop where I'd hang out after class.

Most of all, I missed having a support network. I think something you're expressing in your letter is the desire for normalcy and security. I also wanted those things desperately, but instead of seeking them out at school, I tried to cling on to what I had left behind.

This led to a lot of freshman angst and a truly embarrassing incident in the FFC. I was eating dinner with a group of new friends and suddenly started crying over my plate of mediocre Meatless Monday food. I 10/10 would not recommend bottling up your feelings, because I can assure you, it does not end well.

Still, despite being an absolute mess, my friends didn't judge me. Instead, they took me back to the dorm, where we talked and laughed and neglected our homework. From then on, I decided I was going to focus on putting down roots at Hopkins. I think that's what you should focus on too. Let yourself be vulnerable. Let yourself explore and grow.

An easy tip: If you want to make Baltimore feel like home, try to explore all the different neighborhoods and get to know the people who live here. Keeping up to date with local news and events is an easy but effective way to feel more invested in the community. But there are other things you can do too.

The summer after my freshman year, I subletted from a graduate student's

apartment and lived alone. It was scary but exhilarating. Every weekend I would venture out into different neighborhoods like Fell's Point, Federal Hill, Station North and Waverly.

Sometimes I would take a camera and snap photos of daily life. Other times I'd just walk and absorb the sounds of the city. Volunteering with a local non-profit also allowed me to meet Baltimore natives and learn more about the community.

At the same time, remember that you don't have to forget or discard your memories and relationships of home. Searching, you say that when you thought about home last year, you thought of your high school friends. You can still do that. And you absolutely can continue to make those people integral parts of your life.

Every three months or so, I FaceTime my best friends from home. We tag each other in memes. And when I go home for winter break, I make a point to spend as much time as possible with them. But when I'm here at school, I make it a point to be present.

It's scary and intense to venture out into the unknown. You should be proud of yourself. Give yourself time to make Baltimore feel like home. It's not going to happen overnight. But if you focus on growing as a person and developing meaningful relationships, I believe it can.

Best,

Jenny S. Hopkins

Need advice? Submit your questions to dearjennyshopkins@gmail.com and they may be answered in a future column.

The many shades of sunglasses: a short history



Meagan Peoples
Think about it

I've never liked wearing sunglasses. I don't like making the world dimmer, and I've never lived in a place that's bright enough that it's been necessary.

However, after years of living in cities with impeccable public transportation systems, I've decided it's about time I learn how to drive.

And through this experience, I've learned to appreciate a pair of sunglasses while driving down the highway straight into a blinding ball of light.

That got me thinking. Who invented the accessory which indicates to the common people which movie character is supposed to be fashion forward? Who first decided that daylight was simply too bright, and they needed something to help filter it through? Well the answer may surprise you.

It turns out that some early artifacts of sunglasses actually came from the Inuits. In their snowy en-

vironment, these people used a sort of sun goggle in order to protect themselves from snow blindness (damage done to the eyes by sunlight reflecting off the snow). They were made out of ivory or antler. The pieces were carved first to fit the wearer's face and then with slits to see through.

The first references to sunglasses, however, comes from ancient Rome and later China in the 12th century. Though the veracity of this particular story is ambiguous, I'm pretty sure none of you think of me as a credible source, so I'm going to tell it anyway.

Nero, the ancient Roman emperor who ruled from 54 A.D. till his death in 68 A.D., was known to be near sighted. This was quite the difficult predicament before the invention of glasses.

However, this wasn't all that plagued him. He also had trouble viewing fights due to the bright sunlight (do you see where this is going?). So what did he do to ease these troubles?

Why, he simply used emeralds, effectively making the first (and most expensive) pair of sunglasses. While a lesser man might've simply used a hat to block that pesky sunlight, Nero was beyond such commonalities.

However, sunglasses more as we know them

today were actually used as far back as the 12th century in China. These sunglasses were often made from smoky quartz, and in some cases tortoiseshell was used in order to craft the frame.

These glasses didn't actually protect the wearer from ultraviolet rays and were used instead to hide the expression of the wearer. Incidentally, this is not a use for sunglasses that I had ever thought of, though it certainly gives me more respect for them.

Who knew that sunglasses could be both fashionable and help me in creating a mysterious aura about myself.

Sunglass technology didn't make its way to the west until an Englishman, James Ayscough, experi-

menting in the 18th century, made the first precursor to sunglasses as we know them today (you know, the kind that protect your eyes and everything).

Ayscough suggested green tinted spectacles in order to help those with sensitivity to light, perhaps lending some validity to Nero's use of emeralds.

From here, sunglass technology continued to improve until in 1929, the first mass produced sunglasses, Foster Grants, came into being. However, it wasn't until Hollywood stars began wearing them both on and off set that the craze really began.

Though I still can't wear them everyday, I do acknowledge that sunglasses have had an interesting place in history.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

The concept of sunglasses dates back to the Ancient Roman Empire.

VOICES

Here is the section where you can publish your unique thoughts, ideas and perspectives on life at Hopkins and beyond.

We need to stop trivializing the word “triggered”



Diva Parekh
Copy Queen

I’m triggered.” You hear it everywhere these days: from people walking out of an exam, from an upperclassman walking into the FFC, or from your friends when you remind them about that one stupid drunk night.

You can read the headline: You know what this article is going to be about. But before I actually get started, I just want to say that if you identify yourself in any of those examples or if you are someone who uses the word triggered casually — I am not trying to attack you. I’m just going to try to help you understand, if you’re ready to listen.

In 2015 *The Atlantic* published an article called “How Trigger Warnings Are Hurting Mental Health On Campus,” which argues that college students are coddled. It says, “The ultimate aim, it seems, is to turn campuses into ‘safe spaces’ where young adults are shielded from words and ideas that make some uncomfortable.”

The University of Chicago released a statement in 2016 saying, “Our commitment to academic freedom means that we do not support so called ‘trigger warnings.’” Our generation is seen, not only by older generations but by our peers as well, as overly sheltered.

We’re told to retreat to our “safe spaces.” We’re mocked and told to get over it, told that it’s real life and that we need to learn how to live in the real world.

I’m not going to make any sweeping generalizations here. I’m just going to tell you my story. After that, you can feel free to tell me I’m being overly sensitive.

If you read my article from *The News-Letter’s Identity Issue*, you know this story. If you haven’t, here’s the short version: I was molested twice as a child, once when I was eight and once when I was 13. But, that’s not what this article is about.

This is about something that happened over five years later. I was in an English class at Hopkins, and one of the readings was Vladimir Nabokov’s *Lolita*.

Lolita is a story told from the perspective of someone who wants to have sex with very young girls. He calls

them “nymphs.” I can honestly say I have no idea how the book ended, because I couldn’t get through the thing.

Reading it on a train, I almost threw up. I told myself it was just motion sickness. I told myself to get over it. Stop being a baby. It was five years ago. So I pushed myself to read more, until I was sitting in an 80-degree room shaking uncontrollably, until

I became too scared to sleep, afraid that it would make the old nightmares come back.

Still I figured I could sit through that class. I just needed

some time; I could get through it. I ended up shaking all the way to lunch and proceeded not to sleep for a week because the nightmares would keep me up. I still did nothing until my friend practically yelled at me to email the professor asking to meet with him.

My professor was incredibly understanding. He didn’t even ask for an explanation. He even made me a separate exam so I wouldn’t have to answer questions from *Lolita*.

So why was I so afraid of talking to him about it?

Everything in those articles kept bouncing around my head. I imagined myself

going into a professor’s office and saying, “I’m triggered by this book,” and I felt like a joke, like a coddled snowflake, like someone who should have been stronger.

So now that you know, tell me, should I have sucked it up and sat through those classes? Was I being too sensitive?

What about people who are “triggered” by literature or film containing self-harm? The people who are exposed to this material and are reminded of their own past. What if they didn’t expect to see that, weren’t prepared for it and then they relapse?

It’s just life, right? They should get over it.

I’m not going to give you every example of someone legitimately being triggered by something. But if you feel the word pop into your head while you’re making a joke, just be conscious of it and stop yourself.

There’s nothing I can do to enforce this. As a lot of arguments against this article or articles like it say, we have freedom of speech.

But the next time you casually throw the word triggered around, think of the people around you. Think of the girl who’s too afraid to tell her professor that class is giving her nightmares. You’re making her feel like an idiot. You’re making her feel like she’s being too weak.

Just think of who you might hurt.

I told myself to get over it. Stop being a baby. It was five years ago.

A hardcore playlist for those who like rock and roll



Juliana Veracka
The Playlist

I’ve long maintained my love for the rock and metal genres, although admittedly I’m not very good at determining which songs fall into what category. Discerning genres is not my forte, so I often rely on Wikipedia and professional music reviewers to fill me in on what group plays what kind of music.

That being said, a lot of excellent bands that I believe fall under the category of rock and/or metal released new music this summer, so here are some of my favorites.

“**Feel Invincible**” by Skillet from their 2016 album *Unleashed*. OK. So this song is technically from last year. I promise the rest of them are actually recent.

I’m constantly surprised to know how many of the groups I already listen to fall under the category of Christian rock. Often the lyrics are broad enough that you don’t need to be Christian to appreciate them, and that’s true when it comes to this song.

“**Feel Invincible**” strikes me as a power anthem. It’s fun and usually pumps me up. I’ve only heard a few of the other songs on *Unleashed*, but I’d say it’s worth checking those out

too if you like this one.

“**River of Fire**” by In This Moment from their new album *Ritual*. The theme of *Ritual* is witchcraft. It’s inspired by the Salem witch trials, which is fun and definitely present throughout.

“**River of Fire**” is perhaps one of the songs least likely to be associated with the theme on its own, but it’s one of my favorites because it has such a powerful tone. It feels like a song that’s saying “test me, I’m ready.”

There are so many other fantastic songs on this album that also seem to speak to a message of empowerment, and I encourage everyone to listen to all of it.

“**Anyone Else**” by PVRIS from their new album *All We Know of Heaven, All We Need of Hell*. PVRIS just released this album a few weeks ago.

After a couple people I follow on social media mentioned PVRIS I had to check them out, if only to figure out how to pronounce “PVRIS” (It turns out that they used to be called Paris but then changed the “a” into a “v,” although apparently it’s still pronounced the same way.)

“**Anyone Else**” was one of the real standouts for me. It definitely has their signature sound (a little dark, almost subdued yet very emotional) but also has a very distinct theme and tune.

I personally find their previous album, *White Noise*, more consistently enjoyable. But “**Anyone Else**” is possibly my favorite of all their songs. So that makes up for it to an extent.

It’s intense and emotional, and the music video is great. If you haven’t heard anything from PVRIS yet, this is a good song to start with.



DREW DE FAWKES/CC BY 2.0

PVRIS released their debut album, *White Noise*, in November 2014.

“**Do You Really Want It?**” by Nothing More from their new album *The Stories We Tell Ourselves*. Nothing More is a band that had been in my periphery for a while before I started listening to them this summer.

I didn’t know how I’d feel about *The Stories We Tell Ourselves* because it is very much a concept album, with short and long tracks mixed together.

To me, “**Do You Really Want It?**” seems to be asking listeners how badly they want change. The question at the heart of it is whether listeners are willing to change themselves in order to change the world, and I think that’s relevant and gives listeners something to think about.

“**Feed The Machine**” by Nickelback from their new album *Feed The Machine*. I know. I know you’re all judging me right now. I’ve accepted that. Look, it’s basically a meme now that we all hate Nickelback. I’ve heard all the complaints about their lazy writing and generic songs.

I do not disagree with most of the criticisms, and I do not hate the band. But this new album has potential. Okay, mostly I think

the title track of the new album has potential. “**Feed The Machine**” is actually pretty good.

It hooks you in quickly, it’s consistent throughout and the lyrics feel relevant. They went (a little) more hardcore with this album, and I don’t want to ignore that, because that’s something I appreciate.

“**The Last Of The Real Ones**” by Fall Out Boy from their upcoming album *M A N I A*. I feel like by now a lot of you have probably left, and I get it. Is Fall Out Boy even rock? Is this song a rock song? I don’t know. I’m not a musician. I just love music, and Fall Out Boy literally just released this song, and I couldn’t ignore it. I love it.

It starts off with some great piano in the beginning and the chorus is strong. There are some noteworthy lyrics in there that have that Fall Out Boy way of sticking with you. So maybe they’ve moved more toward pop music.

Ironically their 2013 album *Save Rock and Roll* was almost all pop. But I’m pretty sure they’ve been and sometimes still are considered a rock group. So I have no qualms about including them here.

This month in history

1609 - The island of Manhattan is discovered

1620 - The Mayflower departs, bound for America

1690 - The first American newspaper, *Publick Occurrences Both Forreign and Domestick*, is published in Boston

1783 - The Treaty of Paris is signed, ending the Revolutionary War

1810 - Chile declares its independence

1875 - Edgar Rice Burroughs, author of *Tarzan of the Apes*, was born in Chicago

1893 - New Zealand becomes the first country that allows all women to vote

1923 - The Great Kanto earthquake hits Japan and kills 140,000

1945 - Vietnam proclaims independence and becomes the Democratic Republic of Vietnam

1953 - John F. Kennedy marries Jacqueline Bouvier in Rhode Island

1961 - Peace Corps authorized by Congress

1969 - The Beatles release *Abbey Road*

1982 - Princess Grace of Monaco dies in a car accident

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NEWS-LETTER

Editorials

PIIAC’s recommendation to divest is
only the beginning

The Public Interest Investment Advisory Committee (PIIAC) released an official recommendation last Friday that the University should fully divest its endowment from fossil fuel companies. The Committee — comprised of undergraduates, graduate students, faculty and staff — not only recommended divestment but also outlined how the University can begin the process.

PIIAC’s report will now go before the Board of Trustees, which will make the final decision.

The Editorial Board is pleased with PIIAC’s call to divest from all fossil fuels rather than just a few.

We commend PIIAC in taking this huge step to push the University towards action that is in line with our mission statement as well as the many sustainability initiatives around campus.

We would also like to recognize the ongoing efforts of Refuel Our Future, the student group that has been pushing the University to

divest for the past six years. We commend its members for spending so much time and effort fighting for something they believe in. They should be proud of how their work has led up to this moment.

The University has implemented a 30-day periods where members of the public can comment on the report. We encourage students and faculty to take advantage of this time to keep the momentum of the proposal going and ensure it fully represents the opinions of the Hopkins community.

We also urge the University to be more transparent regarding the logistics of this ongoing process, providing specific dates as to when the Board of Trustees will vote on this proposal. We would also appreciate clarification as to the nature of the vote and whether the Board is allowed to make amendments to the report before making its final decision.

We urge members of the Board of Trustees to

establish the University as a moral leader in the ongoing fight against climate change. Divestment isn’t the entire solution, but it’s a significant step.

We are aware that there is much more left to do when it comes to combating climate change. We remain heavily dependent on fossil fuels in our daily lives. As of now, we are unable to operate solely on alternative energy sources, and the University’s divestment from fossil fuels cannot change that.

As a research university, we must lead the charge in investigating and investing in alternative energy technologies. We also encourage students to be more aware of their own carbon footprints, and do their part to decrease their daily usage of fossil fuels.

Divestment is but one tactic in this fight against climate change. We are happy that the University is moving towards that but we must not allow ourselves to think that the overall fight is over.

When will the University lift its ban
on new arts and service groups?

The University has enacted a moratorium on students forming new arts and community service groups.

Regarding service groups, the University imposed these restrictions because the Center for Social Concern (CSC) noted that many existing groups have overlapping goals.

The Editorial Board is pleased to see that the CSC is taking a critical look at how we can best serve Baltimore. We acknowledge the concerns raised about redundancy and we encourage interested students to look for opportunities provided by existing service groups.

However, for arts groups, the administration justified the ban by citing concerns over limited prac-

tice space and resources.

We acknowledge and understand why these restrictions have been enacted, especially given that Shriver Hall is closed. We know that space is limited and that it requires a lot of money and time for the University to build new practice and performance facilities.

However, arts groups are a vital part of our campus.

These groups provide outlets for performing students to express themselves and their cultures. They also offer invaluable mental health support, allowing students to de-stress from the pressures of life at Hopkins. These benefits not only impact student performers but student audiences as well.

Additionally, Hopkins

prides itself on how students can take the initiative to control their undergraduate experience by creating and leading groups. Restricting our ability to take such initiative goes against our campus culture.

The administration has imposed a blanket ban rather than find a solution that preserves our freedom to form groups while recognizing the University’s legitimate concerns.

The University’s lack of transparency about the future of arts and service groups is concerning. There is no proposed end date to this moratorium.

We urge the University to establish a concrete timeline for when new groups will be allowed to be accepted.

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COPY STAFF: Amanda Kaufman, Karen Sheng

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Mailing Address:
3400 N. Charles St.
Mattin Center, Suite 131
Baltimore, MD 21218
Phone: (410) 516-6000
Email: chiefs@jhunewsletter.com
Business Email: business@jhunewsletter.com

acp

OPINIONS

With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.

PATRIOT Act was the wrong response to 9/11

By SAMUEL SKLARIN

Last week marked the 16th anniversary of the tragic attacks on the World Trade Center in New York. These attacks caused a ripple effect of kindness around the world: The New York firefighters sprung to the scene immediately, neighbors were doing anything they could to lift each other up and people in countries all around the world were deeming themselves as "American" as a sign of solidarity.

The Bush administration thought they needed to impose new regulations and securities to keep the American people safe from further attacks. The effects of these decisions still linger today.

One of the most controversial decisions made in the aftermath of 9/11 was passing the USA PATRIOT Act. This was the wrong approach and it does not get to the heart of our security issue.

Just over one month after the 9/11 attacks, the PATRIOT Act was passed. This is probably something that you have heard about in the news or even during a dinner table rant at Thanksgiving.

This act essentially gave government bureaucrats the ability to live vicariously through our cell phones, our computer searches and our utility bills.

The passing of this act was an attempt to "[Unite] and [Strengthen] America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism," which is also the official title of the act. However, it is nothing other than an unnecessary breach of power by the government.

Why does the government need to hear about the meal I had at R House with some of my friends last Wednesday? Who's to say whether a government official is scanning over my computer history right now because I researched the aftermath of the attacks.

When the PATRIOT ACT was passed Thomas Jefferson's idea that liberty is the most important thing after life was flushed down the drain.

The bill was a rushed and ill-thought attempt at keeping the country safe. Frantic from the attacks, Congress felt like they needed to pass something, anything, to make the American people feel safe in their own homes. Instead, the PATRIOT ACT had the opposite effect. It put Americans on edge, as if they were being watched constantly by a random bureaucrat in a dimly lit room.

And the worst part is that this

worry was not unwarranted. In his speech directly after he signed the act, President Bush stated that it would not only help curb terrorist actions but it would also "protect the constitutional rights of all Americans." However, it seems to have been insufficient at doing both of these things.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union's website, the FBI issued 192,499 National Security Letters between 2003 and 2006. This allowed them to obtain personal information without a judge's approval. And it "led to one terror-related conviction. The conviction would

have occurred even without the Patriot Act," according to the ACLU.

This is not to say that ensuring public safety is not important. Liberty cannot exist without a safe environment to live in. But

the PATRIOT Act was not a good approach. Instead of keeping bombs off our streets, it put cameras in our living rooms.

In more recent years, new issues with terrorism have entered the public conscience. Al-Qaeda is no longer at the tip of people's tongues when they talk about terrorist attacks.

They have been eclipsed by the rise of the Islamic State or ISIS and the resurgence of the Taliban. ISIS has been able to create a network of force all over the world and has recently carried out attacks in Europe.

With these groups and more vying for power in the Middle East and throughout the world, the question is not if there will be another terrorist attack on American soil. The question is when will this attack happen. And when it comes, the U.S. must be ready to learn from our mistakes and rethink our decision making.

Samuel Sklarin is a sophomore International Studies major from San Francisco.

Divestment from fossil fuels is a first step but not enough



COURTESY OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE. Armitage mentions hurricanes like Harvey as evidence of irreversible climate change.

By EMELINE ARMITAGE

On September 15, the Public Interest Investment Advisory Committee (PIIAC) released their recommendations for fossil fuel divestment. Overall, the recommendation was a complete success for student activists (specifically the group Refuel Our Future), with PIIAC recommending full divestment of the University's endowment from fossil fuel companies.

The proposals acknowledged the counter-arguments to divestment (empty gesture, financially harmful, slippery slope to further divestment campaigns) and then explained why these counter arguments were wrong or were outweighed by the positives. Student involvement and opinion weighed heavily in the report, and student activists on campus should be giving themselves a round of applause as well as gearing up for the campaign to get the board to vote for full divestment.

However, I do have one quibble with an otherwise well done proposal: the focus on "sustainable capitalism" or "saving capitalism from itself." I do not expect anything coming from the Hopkins administration to be radical, but that does not mean we cannot further discuss the issues in a radical framework and push for further radical changes to address climate change.

I believe that climate change is not a crisis of unsustainable capitalism but of capitalism itself. Focusing on reforming capitalism as opposed to abolishing it will only doom the human species to suffering and possible extinction.

The past few weeks of hurricanes devastating the Caribbean and floods ravaging Nepal, Bangladesh and India (the death toll is at 1,200) is only a preview of what is to come if we do not adapt to climate change (and of course racialized, colonized and impoverished people are feeling the worst effects while contributing the least to global warming).

The argument that capitalism will solve climate change generally says that companies will have a motivation to save the planet in order to continue making profit. But this has already been proven false by the direction we are heading in.

The U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (which is considered conservative by many climate scientists) estimates that should we stay on our present course, the Earth's temperature will rise by four degrees. This would be catastrophic: At a minimum, Miami and Bangladesh will be gone, resulting in mass migrations of millions.

It is a scientific fact that we are in the midst of the sixth mass extinction, caused mainly by human activity. There is no profit

motivation to protect the most exploited and vulnerable populations or endangered species.

While fossil fuel companies release reports down playing the effect of climate change, their CEOs buy underground bunkers and prepare for a looming crisis. Billionaire Richard Branson survived Hurricane Irma in his luxurious wine cellar on his private island, a sign of the climate apartheid that is only going to accelerate.

Republicans have gained a reputation as a climate change denying party. Yet is important to recognize that the Democrats and the Republicans have the same basic capitalist ideology and that even the most radical Democrat solution would still doom the planet.

In 2013, the private equity firm Carlyle Group LP successfully lobbied the Obama administration to relax Environmental Protection Agency regulations, which benefited Carlyle oil refineries. Not one U.S. politician, including "radical" Bernie Sanders, has a plan to humanely deal with climate change refugees.

Adapting to climate change will require a shift in not only our economy but also in every facet of American life. According to the World Bank, in 2013 the United States emitted 16.4 tons of carbon per capita. For comparison, China emitted 7.6 tons per capita, India 1.6, Canada 13.5 and Burundi at the lowest with 0.3 tons per capita. If, as capitalists argue, capitalist innovation will solve climate change, why is the United States still consuming massive amounts of fossil fuels?

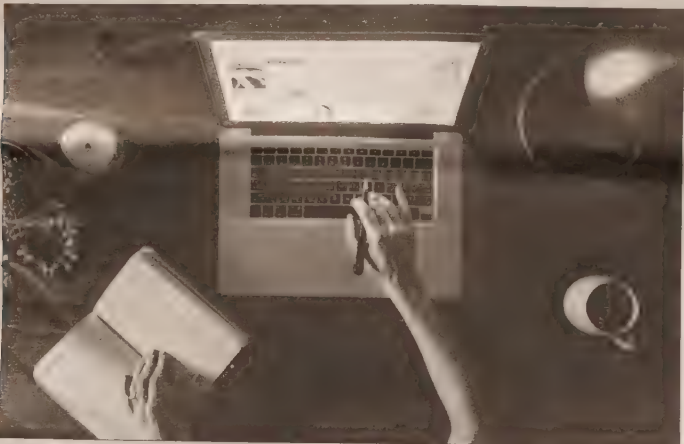
It is important to note that ending capitalism won't end global warming. We are way beyond that point. Even if we stopped all emissions this very second, it would still take at least a century for the planet to settle back into a normal routine. Adaptation is the path laid out before us.

But it is clear that capitalism won't allow humanity to adapt in the most humane and environmentally friendly way possible. There is no need for speculation on this front; We only need to look at failures in the government response to recent natural disasters as proof.

We can celebrate the PIIAC recommendation and ensure we push for full divestment, but we also must engage in a paradigm shift to how we discuss climate change. We cannot talk about sustainable development, sustainable investment, sustainable capitalism; Those things will not save us.

We must talk about tearing down the current system and building one that can deal with the escalating crisis we have before us. And we must do it as quickly as possible.

Emeline Armitage is a senior International Studies, Latin American Studies and Spanish major from Cleveland.



PUBLIC DOMAIN
The PATRIOT Act gave the government unprecedented access to civilian electronic activity.

A Letter to the Editor

Not just a Hopkins student, but a Baltimore citizen

In response to "I witnessed a drive by shooting in Baltimore," published on September 14:

There was a column in *The News-letter* that I found warranted a response. As it involved a drive-by shooting, I will not dismiss how deeply chilling that experience must have been. Nevertheless, I think there are some ways of thinking in the article that should be addressed, particularly to squash the problematic belief among Hopkins students that Baltimore is a place to endure, not a place to love.

I balked at the idea that "the most important... thing that students encounter is the crime." Living in Baltimore is not a monolith defined only by violence, particularly when our privilege keeps us so shielded from it. It is sensationalist to say otherwise.

The author also did not want "to denounce Hopkins students" for not being active in the city, but I will. "Being aware" is mindless. We come to Hopkins to receive a world-class education that sops up the resources of a struggling city. Being a "guest" means you cannot be bothered to engage

with the systemic oppression that you inherently perpetuate. This is also present when your friends make cracks about Baltimore, and you do not shut them down. It is this blatant disregard that is at the root of the problem.

Beyond that, referring to those involved in the shooting as "animals" is, quite frankly, racist. There is a way to condemn violence that does not also drudge up the idea that people of color are savage. Violence is a symptom of something larger, so instead ask yourself why this is happening, and then get involved in the solution.

To freshmen wondering how to navigate the relationship between Hopkins and the city, educate yourself beyond the classroom. Read *The Baltimore Sun*, read books that delve into blockbusting, the school-to-prison-pipeline, the "white L and the black butterfly."

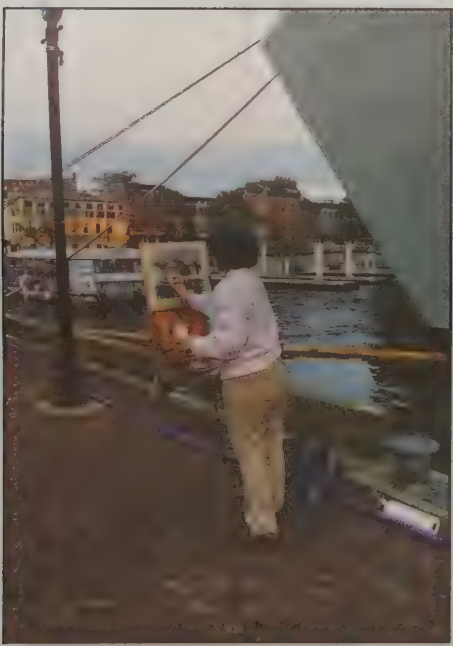
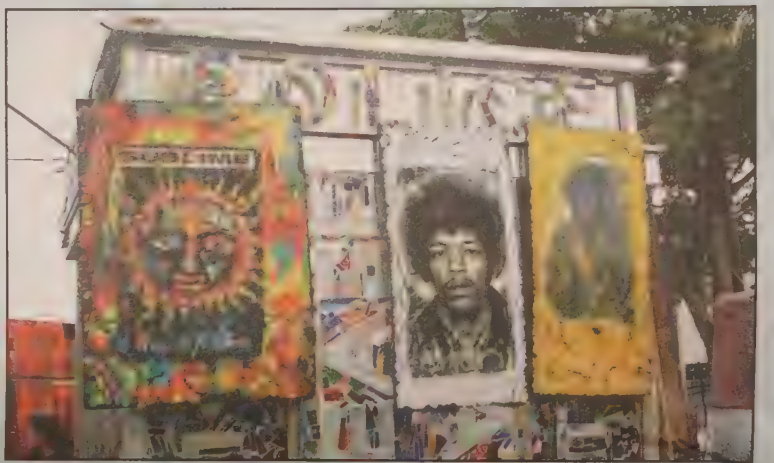
Familiarize yourself with the devastating East Baltimore Development Initiative and others. Visit the Center for Social Concern. You won't be able to sit on the sidelines. Be an active and engaged citizen. Be a human being that cares for the state of other human beings. *That* is the least you can do.

— Samantha Igo,
Senior

PHOTO ESSAY

Pop The Bubble

An Exploration of Baltimore Neighborhoods



THE B SECTION

NL


YOUR WEEKEND • ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT • CARTOONS, ETC. • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY • SPORTS

SEPTEMBER 21, 2017



Arts & Entertainment

Review of *mother!* critiques movie for confusing plot — B3
Student theatre group performs minimalist play *Vacation* — B3
Baltimore Symphony Orchestra performs at season opening — B4



Science & Technology

Public health students go to Cape Town for summer study abroad — B7
Scientists explore health benefits of high fat diets in mice — B8
Researchers find compounds in cocoa can help fight diabetes — B9



Sports

Hopkins selects Under Armor to supply athletic apparel — B10
W. Volleyball defeats three teams, continues winning streak — B10
Cross Country competes at annual Iona Meet of Champions — B11

YOUR WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 21 - 24

Events in Baltimore this weekend

Thursday

City Paper's Best Of Party, Ram's Head Live! 6:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.

Join the best of the best with Baltimore's *City Paper*. After 40 years of diligent local reporting, the *City Paper* staff is going out with a blast, celebrating all that we love about this city we call home. \$35.

Friday

All Aboard for Train Rides! B&O Railroad Museum, 11:30 a.m.

Skip your morning class and hit the rails on the Mile One Express. Take 20 minutes on the first commercial mile of railroad track laid in America. \$3.

Rossini's "William Tell Overture," The Engineers Club, 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Spend your Friday night listening to Gioachino Rossini's operatic retelling of medieval Swiss hero William Tell fighting against Austrian Occupation. Tickets start at \$21.

Saturday

The Amazing Acro-cats in Baltimore!, Creative Alliance, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Come see Tuna and the Rock Cats paw and scratch their way around skateboards, hoops and balance beams. Yes, these are actual cats doing tricks. Come join the fun. Tickets are \$10.

22nd Annual Baltimore Book Festival, Inner Harbor, 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Every year renowned authors and book vendors show off their literary prowess and wares in Baltimore's Inner Harbor. Past years have attracted over 100,000 attendees, so don't miss out. Free.

Sunday

Baltimore Comic-Con 2017, Baltimore Convention Center, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Fangirl and fanboy over your favorite superheroes at this year's annual Comic-Con. There's even a costume contest. Tickets start at \$25.

Birroteca restaurant provides solid Italian fare

By **BOBBY PERETTI**
For The News-Letter

It was already a bit dark by the time we pulled in to the nearly full, gravel parking lot of Birroteca, an Italian restaurant — I think it might technically go by "pizzeria," but I've forgotten — resting in the luxuriant shade of I-83 as it goes over Jones Falls.

The restaurant is technically within walking distance, just short of the trip to Druid Hill Park. Realistically, though, it makes the most sense to Uber, unless you're trying to get your steps in.

About a week ago, I went with several other Hopkins students for an event through the Saul Zaentz Innovation Fund, which works very closely with the Hopkins film program. As such, I can't say it was a normal meal, but the place did leave a lasting impression.

A banner strung across the road approaching the place reminds all comers that the mill district they have entered is "historic" and not simply "old." Even though the vines that have overtaken the area's chain link fences may state a case to the contrary, I

think that when it comes to Birroteca, the banner gets it right.

The building, a mill in a previous life, is spacious, comfortably fitting a wraparound bar and quite a bit of seating on the first floor. The aesthetic staples of restaurants born from mills are all present and accounted for: Hardwood floors, exposed stone and brick walls, and fuzzy tungsten light each do their bit in giving the place a post-industrial coziness, if that term isn't too pretentious to still make sense.

It looks quite nice together and has the welcome effect of shrinking a large space to a more personal scale. A single table, visually, has privacy.

But only visually. The drawback of combining wood and stone and brick and dishes and human beings and other human beings is it makes a lot of noise. Every sound bounces.

When a space is full, conversations even with those near you can become difficult. A friend sitting just across the table from me repeated something three times before I could make out her say-



CC BY 2.0/EDSEL LITTLE

One of Birroteca's locations is on Clipper Rd. by the Jones Fall Expressway.

ing, "Never mind. It wasn't important." I didn't notice any background music playing, which was merciful.

Seeing as I was there for an event that featured an open bar and a buffet, I am limited in what I can say about the dining experience. I didn't have a menu, a waiter or a bill, which to my mind are the three most important aspects of any meal and topics I am not equipped to discuss in much detail. I did, however, have the food.

First, as one might expect, they brought out appetizers, which followed a certain pattern. Most were on thin slices of baguette. Some were topped with prosciutto, lettuce and sprinkled cheese. Some had mushrooms, sweet peppers and a drizzling of vinaigrette or some other such dressing. All were quite

good, the roasted brussels sprouts especially.

They brought out pizzas, the kind that would probably be referred to as "artisanal" by those who like to annoy other people. But they earned the designation.

The dessert didn't quite knock my socks off, but then again, I take cannoli more seriously than I should.

All in all, I had a very positive experience at Birroteca. The atmosphere, while not exactly soundproof, was pleasant and struck a good balance between rustic and modern.

And while I can't speak to the menu directly, the food was good and more or less justifies the prices listed online, which are steep for college students. But as a place to visit infrequently, especially with friends, it's very well suited.

Baltimore museum exhibits nontraditional art

By **RENEE SCAVONE**
Your Weekend Editor

I've been on a little bit of a museum kick lately.

In true senior year fashion, I have dedicated a lot of time to exploring the city of Baltimore. This is partially caused by a desire to learn as much as I can about the place I've called home for the last four years before I leave.

(It's also partially a really good excuse to skip class.)

However, I can't pretend it's all historical museums and environmental walks. Sometimes you just have to look at some weird stuff.

And Charm City has a lot of weird stuff to look at.

The American Visionary Art Museum (or AVAM for short) is definitely a darling for most arts-oriented Hopkins students.

Even if your tastes are more traditional, the mu-

seum has a lot to offer.

One of the key elements of the museum is that every single artist featured has no formal training. They are people who just love to create and, if I can be totally corny for a moment, that in itself is kind of beautiful.

First and foremost, the building itself is an attraction. The exterior of the main gallery is decorated in gorgeous stained glass, depicting cosmological scenes.

There are also tons of sculptures outside to gaze at for absolutely free; a giant bird's nest, a decked out school bus, a giant cuckoo clock featuring Baltimore legends John Waters and his muse, Divine.

If you're really not about spending money, you can also check out the Wildflower Garden. There are, unsurprisingly, tons of wildflowers, as well as more sculptures and a

Meditation Chapel, a large wooden would-be tree house with tons of non-sanctioned graffiti.

The cost of admission to actually get into the museum is just under \$10 for students, which does about as much damage to your bank account as Chipotle + guac.

Even if art isn't really your thing at all, only one of those locations has a "no E. coli record" (we're looking at you, Chipotle).

To sweeten the pot, transportation is free; Simply take the Purple Route on the Charm City Circulator to the Lee Street stop, and then hop on the Banner route until the appropriately named American Visionary Art Museum stop. The whole journey should take about 20 minutes. Easy peasy.

There are three main parts to the indoor museum, and my preferred starting point is the Visionary Village in the Jim Rouse Visionary Center.

Visionary Village features some of the bigger exhibits. My favorites include the giant *Bra Ball*, which is exactly what it sounds like, and the museum's huge collection of mechanical theater automata, aka dozens of small old-school robots.

The Zanvyl A. Krieger main building houses many of the museum's permanent exhibits. With everything from traditional paintings to yarn sculptures, there's a little something for everyone.

And don't forget to check out the basement and the *Flatulence Post*.

The entire exhibit revolves around flatus: their categorization, their history and, of course, their various sounds. Overall the display is great if you're a 12 year-old boy or a middle-aged dad.

One of the best things about these displays is that, though they are permanent possessions of the museum, the art rotates, which means you'll see something new every time but don't have to worry about your favorite pieces leaving forever.

There are some temporary exhibits, however. The museum usually has a theme, featuring works from various artists. Past themes include hope, food and storytelling.

This year's exhibit, opening on Saturday, Oct. 7, is titled *The Great Mystery* and promises an exploration of human curiosity and imagination through physics, psychics and a whole lot more.

The American Visionary Art Museum isn't exactly the BMA, but I think that's one of the reasons it's so wonderful.

Any gallery in the world can hang a Monet or a Belows, but I think it takes a special kind of visionary (if you'll excuse the pun) to look at balloons, or window screens or an old hatchback and say "This could be art."

It takes a special kind of quirky, weird, creativity and plenty of encouragement from supportive friends, family and neighbors — two things that Baltimore has in spades.



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The American Visionary Arts Museum is at the base of Federal Hill Park.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Current Space opens new exhibit

By ALICIA BADEA
For *The News-Letter*

Hidden in an unassuming building on North Howard Street, Current Space, one of Baltimore’s numerous art galleries, is currently presenting a new exhibition, which attempts to engage viewers on the very abstract levels of form and color.

The goal of each piece in *Confirmed Mood*, according to the gallery’s Facebook page for the event, is to represent the “construction of the composition [...] as both the subject and object of a complete, logical, and intuitive organization of line, color, shape, form and texture.”

There is little that is pictorially represented, or that serves an obvious symbolic purpose — rather the forms themselves become metaphorical, abstracted from the particulars of everyday life.

They become the focus of the work rather than the technique through which the work is ultimately realized. While Aschely Cone, Sutton Demlong and Nick Primo, the three artists featured in *Confirmed Mood*, actualize this in very different modes, their dedication to shape and form unites their pieces.

Cone, born in 1985, received her MFA from Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) in 2016. Her background, however, includes both a BA in Liberal Arts from St. John’s College and an MA in Art History from Tulane University.

Her works in *Confirmed Mood* center around the theme of “doubleness,” specifically the arch and shield, which, according to Cone, “suggests an opening, an absence, a possible future; it is passive. The shield obstructs, conceals, protects.”

Thus, Cone seems to want her work to produce two possible interpretations. The majority of her pieces in *Confirmed Mood* contain a clear arch shape, which the viewer can interpret as not only a void but its opposite — an obstruction.

However, the arches are often overlaid with a multitude of differently-colored lines, causing the central shape to recede into the background. This makes it more difficult to understand the form.

While several of Cone’s pieces display a meticulous effort with regards to color coordination and patterning, many give the impression of being composed of imprecise brushstrokes, which are not necessarily supposed to be such, leaving a more rigorous technical skill to be desired.

“I thought certain pieces in the exhibit were well done, and while I didn’t really like some of the others, I appreciated the common theme and attempted story,” sophomore

SEE CURRENT SPACE, PAGE B3

Aronofsky’s *mother!* disappoints, leaves audiences confused

By LUIS CUIRTEL
For *The News-Letter*

Darren Aronofsky, director of *mother!*, has never been one to shy away from the realm of “What the f***?” in his films. From his debut, *Pi*, to the biblical tale that is *Noah*, he fills all of his films with biblical allegory and psychological mind screwing, so it shouldn’t be a surprise that Aronofsky’s new film, *mother!* follows the same themes.

Aronofsky studied film and social anthropology at Harvard and directed at the American Film Institute. He won the award for Best Director and was nominated for the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival. He also won the Independent Spirit Award for Best First Screenplay for his first feature film, *Pi*.

Aronofsky followed *Pi* with *Requiem for a Dream* (find it on Netflix) which stars Ellen Burstyn, Jared Leto, Jennifer Connelly and Marlon Wayans as four different individuals dealing with different forms of drug addiction. It follows their journey into disillusionment and eventually their metamorphosis into hollow shells of themselves.

Requiem for a Dream was positively received by critics and acclaimed for its portrayal of addiction and the loss of one’s person because of it.

Next came *The Fountain* which featured Rachel

Weisz and Hugh Jackman as lovers throughout various time periods. Aronofsky followed with *The Wrestler* and *Black Swan* (his most critically acclaimed film), both of which center around the narratives of characters that dedicate everything to be the best at their respective professions.

Aronofsky’s most recent film was 2014’s *Noah*, which was met with controversy due to the way it depicts the biblical story of Noah and the ark, one that we all know so well. Aronofsky included some very strange additions, which I’ll leave to the imagination; They have to be seen to be believed if I’m being honest.

As mentioned previously, his films are definitely not for the weak-willed. Nor are they the kinds of movies you watch when you’re in search of something uplifting. *mother!* definitely fills this role.

mother!’s plot was kept under wraps for almost it’s entire time in production. We didn’t get a poster or a trailer until early August. Originally scheduled to premiere in October, the film was fast-tracked for early September.

Paramount Pictures didn’t elaborate on their decision, but it may have been related to numerous festivals the film was shown at leading up to its worldwide premiere.

The film’s trailer doesn’t really provide potential audiences with much in-

formation either: All we know is that Jennifer Lawrence and Javier Bardem play a couple living in a nice house in the middle of nowhere when suddenly they are visited by another couple played by Ed Harris and Michelle Pfeiffer, which brings discomfort to Lawrence’s character.

I was intrigued simply because Bardem never fails to impress me, and the reactions from all the film festivals pointed to a film that was going to be, at the very least, something that would generate a constructive conversation. But boy was I wrong.

In an effort to stay positive, I’ll first talk about the things *mother!* gets right. A technical marvel, *mother!’s* sound mixing is very poignant and helps set a claustrophobic mood that is consistent throughout the film.

In a film without a score, this is particularly important since it’s all the audience has when there’s no dialogue, which happens often.

Lawrence is excel-



GAGE SKIDMORE/CC BY-SA 2.0

Jennifer Lawrence stars as the titular Mother in Darren Aronofsky’s latest controversial film.

lent as the titular mother (that’s the only way she’s addressed) and Bardem (playing Him) channels the same energy exhibited in his performances as the villains in *Skyfall* and *No Country For Old Men* to play a character that you absolutely hate and have zero sympathy for.

Harris and Pfeiffer, the guests Man and Woman, seem to be having the most fun in the film. This especially applies to Pfeiffer who plays a foil to Lawrence’s more angelic character and revels in it. Her hatred towards Mother is never fully explained or understood but painfully obvious from the moment she is introduced on screen.

The camera spends enormous amounts of time tight to Lawrence’s face, which serves to add to the sense of claustrophobia and provides the audience with

insight into her continuous confusion as to what is happening around her. Honestly, that’s pretty much all *mother!* has going for it.

Now as I’ve mentioned previously, Aronofsky lives for biblical allegories. In this however, he jumps the shark, failing to deliver his message in a covert way until the final 15 minutes, which explains what in the world is happening during not only the final act but also the entire film.

Not only is the plot of the movie incredibly frustrating but the treatment of Lawrence’s character often comes off as misogynistic.

Bardem’s character is incredibly inconsiderate, places the needs of the multitude of guests over his wife’s desires and constantly objectifies her. Particularly, once we are introduced to the outside couple, they

SEE MOTHER!, PAGE B4

Vacation shows Tentative Digital Theatre Company’s potential

By SARAH SCHREIB
Staff Writer

As a crowd of around 30 students tentatively stepped into the SDS Room of the Mattin Center on Sept. 15, they encountered a sparse ring of black plastic chairs and white lamps. The audience members filing into the circle of seats had gathered to watch *Vacation*, a play by Hopkins junior Michael Feder.

As soon as the audience was seated, the bright overhead lights illuminated the stage, and the play’s two protagonists, a married couple Jerome and Margaret, entered the center of the circle.

The scene begins with Jerome packing a suitcase, clearly anxious about the trip the couple is about to embark on. He yells to Margaret to bring him another suitcase so he will not be scrutinized for bringing the one he has already packed.

From this odd, yet intriguing starting point, audience members went on to witness a tense scene of a couple dealing with loss

and insecurity while also trying to care for one another.

Even though we are not provided with many details about their past, we do know that Jerome and Margaret lost a child after they consumed expired food. This creates tension as Margaret cries to Jerome about all the expired food she has had to throw out and as they both look toward an uncertain future after such a dramatic loss.

Despite its relatively short run-time of around 20 minutes, the play was able to convey a range of emotions and themes that, at times, conflicted with one another. There are several climaxes throughout, with one of the characters making a bold, desperate claim or screaming in frustration.

By the end, there is no clear victor or one character who is more sympathetic than the other, just two flawed individuals bearing the weight of their past and grappling to understand what the future

holds.

Feder, who wrote, directed and produced the play, explained his inspiration in an email to *The News-Letter*.

“I had been interested in minimalist writing since I picked up the *SALINGER* biography that came out a couple years ago. For me, I was a little bit tired of seeing theatre that required complex sets, or overly poetic dialogue, instead of psychological realism,” he wrote. “The main questions of the play revolve around communication, especially how we communicate that which hurts us.”

The composition of the set, with the actors enclosed in a circle and sometimes standing in between audience members, heightened the emotional tension of the performance. Feder described his goal in crafting this minimalist, circular set.

“In this play, Jerome and Margaret talk about everything they can to avoid talking about what’s staring them in the face,” he wrote. “Putting the play in the round emphasized this point. Because they could not really exit (due to all the chairs) all they could do was circle around each other. For me, good drama relies much more on what isn’t said than what is.”

Both actors completely embodied their roles as partners in a strained, storied relationship. Richard Johnson, who took on his first acting role as Jerome, brings nuance to a character who is at once deeply insecure, angry, considerate and lost.

Similarly, Margaret,

played by Mabelle Fomundam, releases a range of emotions in a limited time-frame, from fear to desperation to compassion to playfulness.

Fomundam, an alumnus of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, is a professional writer and performer who studied theater in college. Both Fomundam and Johnson were cast after an open casting call held this summer.

“I’ve gotten to this point where I’ve found that if I try to impress certain ideas or themes on the audience it will only make them (and me) nauseous. If there’s anything that I want them to take away, it’s a care and understanding of the characters as they are in that drama. That’s my job at the end of the day: to make you care,” Feder wrote.

Feder elaborated on the play’s two characters.

“Neither of these characters want what is happening to them, but both are somewhat guilty for it happening. There’s no good guy or bad guy. For me that’s good drama,” he wrote.

Vacation is the second play for the Tentative Digital Theatre Company, a theater group formed this summer by Feder and junior David Gumino.

After the Hopkins administration denied them funding for a theater group, the two decided to form their own independent group that could produce shows outside of the normal constraints of Hopkins theater.

“Of course, the administration doesn’t really care

that much about culture on campus, as it doesn’t really help as much in the rankings as other things, and it was essentially a no-go from the moment we walked in with the idea,” Feder wrote.

He also explained why they ultimately decided to form an independent theatre group.

“Because of the frigid response we were receiving, we decided to make an independent theatre group that would operate outside of the constraints of a traditional student theatre group,” he wrote.

Instead of performing in Homewood facilities, they decided to put on their first show in the JHU-MICA Film Centre soundstage. This first show, *You’re in Trouble and So is the Neighborhood* was written by junior Sarina Redzinski and directed by senior Emily Su, who is also Tentative’s secretary.

In addition to a live performance, *You’re in Trouble* also included a digital component and was recorded over a series of days.

In terms of the future for Tentative, Feder hopes to continue establishing its role as an independent haven for Hopkins artists.

“We are currently working on a more permanent solution to finding rehearsal space and funding for our group,” he wrote. “We want to continue to release live as well as digital content in a range of genres, including theatre, music, dance, poetry and art. We want to create a space where artists can thrive at Hopkins, a space that is desperately needed.”



COURTESY OF MICHAEL FEDER

Vacation, a play by junior Michael Feder, premiered on Sept. 15 in Mattin.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Innovative music holds surprises for listeners in our era mother!

By NIKITA SHTARKMAN
for *The News-Letter*

The easiest way to present yourself as a boring, uninteresting and lame person is to start a sentence with the words, "Music isn't the same nowadays..." or "I was born in the wrong era." That is a mindset that many fall into — feeling that all of the "good stuff" has passed and that new music is garbage.

This happens with every popular era of music — a trend catches on and its popularity raises a counterculture response. Now the popular thing to make fun of is "mumble rap," the generation of drugged out rappers who lazily babble over a dark, hammering beat. I want to use this article to showcase some of the new music that doesn't fit into that box.

One of the best projects of the past year is *Steve Lacy's Demo*, a dark, swaggering, jazzy EP. Lacy is a member of the Internet, a group founded by Odd Future members Syd and Matt Martians, who have released some phenomenal music. On his solo work, Lacy shows a knack for writing compositions that have deep layered grooves and catchy melodies.

Lacy's voice is clear and strong; He expertly builds on themes and motives throughout a track. There is not an underdeveloped song on this project.

In fact, *Demo* is an EP that feels like it could be expanded into multiple albums. Along with the music, Lacy has released some great music videos that are worth checking out. He creates dreamlike, drug-haze infused, off-kilter, videos — not unlike Tyler, the Creator.

The Pink Polo EP, a collaboration between the singer and saxophonist Masego and the talented and groovy producer Medasin, was released in 2016, but I think it deserves to be on this list because it was criminally underappreciated.

Medasin backs up Masego's groovy, funky voice with lush synths, thick, groovy basses and some rattling beats. Like his recent collaborator GoldLink, Masego is trying to bring back the funkiness and classic dance vibe of hip hop. Medasin, meanwhile, infuses funk with more modern inspired percussion and sounds.

That mix works surprisingly well, making each and every track on this project danceable.

The pounding of the kicks and the thick synth melodies elevate Masego's great voice. "Girls that Dance" is the standout track, working almost as a thesis for the project: "I like girls that dance / not just with their friends / but with my dudes."

The Pink Polo is a project that is filled with a comedy and irreverence that has been missing from a lot of recent rap. The song "Sego Hotline ft. Krs." is a classic funk joint that uses phone metaphors to describe a relationship: "You's a Face-time woman, he's an Oo-voo man."

Sam Gellaitry is one of the greatest producers of the new generation. Many producers make beat tapes that

feature a bunch of half-baked ideas collaged together into one haphazard project — Gellaitry does just the opposite.

On his *Escapism* projects, Gellaitry creates around five deeply produced, incredibly polished songs that link together. The grooves he builds are unique and expressive, and feel almost alien.

The third installment in the series, *Escapism III*, is less of an EP than a feat of universe building. Each song feels like it's the soundtrack of some distant planet.

The music is exceptionally lush, with layers on layers of sounds. Besides just being beautiful, one has to mention that all of the songs Gellaitry makes absolutely bang on any type of speaker.

Gellaitry is the absolute best at playing with expectations, using leading melodies and rises to create tension and then resolving the tension with a quick drop or the fat kick of an 808. If you ever want to lose yourself for a day, I highly recommend just putting all three *Escapisms* on and letting your mind wander.

Cosmo Pyke is an artist that I did not expect to be listening to in 2017. At a time when rock has fallen into the background, Pyke created a catchy, modern sounding and fun alt-rock project with *Just Cosmo*.

He is often grouped with King Krule because they share a tone of voice and a grittiness, but I think it is more apt to see him as the continuation of the Strokes or the Arctic Monkeys. His voice is textured and he



THE COME UP SHOW/CC BY-SA 2.0

Atlanta-based group EARTHGANG released their five song EP *Rags* at the beginning of September 2017.

writes great melodies.

Every song on *Just Cosmo* is unique in style and theme. The project exudes youth, naiveté and confidence all at once. There are moments of absolute bliss on this project — the double time at the end of "Social Sites" stands out as a gorgeous switch up.

My favorite song on the project is "Wish You Were Gone," a ballad about lost love that switches grooves on a dime and has an exceptionally catchy melody. I highly recommend people check this album out — it serves as a good contrast to pop sensibilities.

My last recommendation is not a project. It didn't even come out this year. It is a singular song from 2016 that I accidentally stumbled on called "Soap" by Deem Spencer.

This phenomenal piece of music only has 60,000 views on Youtube. Deem rides a grimy, lumbering beat with a nice melodic verse that is heavy on assonance and introspection.

The alliteration B4_Underground is incredible: "The pestilence less a mess and the pests is in a box."

The beat is simple, but with its loud low end and gritty samples, it inspires a feeling of intense darkness.

This is an intimate song. Deem speaks as if the lyrics are falling out of him — "What's awkward is that I would jump off a bridge if my friends do it," he solemnly confesses.

I love the video as well. It features a cool double exposure mixing shot of Deem rapping while playing with a diorama which Deem destroys with a small mannequin.

The Atlanta group EARTHGANG recently released a new EP. Called *Rags*, the album is a five song narrative, with each track joined together by short skits. *Rags* shows a deep love for Atlanta and balances discussions of social justice with personal reflection.

EARTHGANG, which consists of Johnny Venus

and Doctur Dot, gained some fame with their 2015 album *Strays with Rabies*. The group is associated with rapper J.I.D., who has won some underground recognition in the past several years.

Earlier in 2017, Toronto rapper Teddy Fantum released *Help Me*. As much as a cry for help as it is an album, Fantum's dark lyrics and poignant discussion of his own pain cuts deeply.

The album's tone and dark content resonate deeply, both as a form of catharsis for Fantum and as something of a plea. *Help Me* addresses mental health without any reservations, something which is not common in the rap genre.

These are a quick set of recommendations that I hope people enjoy. They are projects that stray from the standard Billboard Top 100 style and that can hopefully be jumping off points for discovering more exciting, inspiring music.

disappoints both fans and critics

MOTHER!, FROM B3

serve as a stark contrast to the main characters' relationship.

Where *Mother and Him* are reserved and sterile, *Man and Woman* are hypersexual and fertile.

There's a scene where *Woman* and *Mother* are discussing *Mother's* lack of children when *Woman* says to *Mother*, "Oh you do love him" in a tone that comes off as pity, implying that *Him* doesn't love *Mother* and that's why he's so invested in his work.

As the film continues, the level of absurdity increases and the resolution is incredibly unsatisfying. It leaves you confused and wondering if you just wasted two hours of your life.

I've seen some discussion from critics regarding how *Bardem* represents *God* and *Lawrence* is *Mother Earth* and, consequently, how the way the visitors worship *Bardem's* character and hurt *Mother* and the home she built is a reflection on how humans are damaging the earth.

Sure, it's a thoughtful and complicated way to make a point, however, the way it's approached doesn't capture the audience the way he must have intended. *mother!*, although heavy handed, features fantastic performances and will leave you confused but hopefully engaged in discussion.

The BSO performs a mix of classical and contemporary pieces

By ANNE HOLLMULLER
Senior Staff Writer

The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) opened its first non-gala concert of the 2017-2018 season with "Tchaikovsky Thrill Ride," a program that combined works by contemporary composers and beloved classics.

Music Director Marin Alsop and her talented ensemble began the year with the guest appearance of a gifted Peabody graduate in a marvelous guitar solo.

The evening began with a rendition of "Short Ride in a Fast Machine," a 1986 composition by contemporary composer John Adams. Described by the symphony literature as, "minimalism on amphetamines," the piece was lively and percussive, with a

driving groove and rhythm held together by Alsop and the orchestra.

Following the performance of Adams' composition, a special onstage announcement was made by the President and CEO of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Peter T. Kjome, as well as a representative of Columbia University.

The pair announced that Alsop was the recipient of the 2017 Ditson Conductor's Award for her work in advocating and performing the works of current classical composers.

The Alice M. Ditson Fund, which sponsors the award and its family of grants, works to promote the performing and recording of works by new and emerging American composers. Alsop has agreed to donate the \$5000 cash

prize included in this grant to the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

"Lola Montez Does the Spider Dance," another Adams piece, was written in 2016 and is dedicated to Alsop for her work as music director of the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music in California, a festival for new and experimental music.

The piece was inspired by the rather saucy tale of an Irish-American vaudeville star who performed the eponymous dance for a group of Western coalminers while covered in spiders and cobwebs; The finale of her frantic, fiery dance involved the killing of the very last of the 10,000 spiders that had crawled over her body.

The composition, less playful and more portentous than its origins might have suggested, received its east coast premiere this weekend at the BSO.

The orchestra's next rendition was of "Concierto de Aranjuez," by Spanish composer and pianist Joaquín Rodrigo. One of Rodrigo's best-known compositions, the classical guitar piece was inspired by the beautiful royal gardens of the *Palacio Real de Aranjuez*.

"Concierto" was composed in 1939 — during the final months of the bloody Spanish Civil War — while Rodrigo was living in Paris. The concierto featured a gifted soloist on guitar with

a connection to Baltimore: Lukasz Kuropaczewski, a Polish guitarist who studied at the Peabody Conservatory of Music under Maestro Manuel Barrueco. While at Peabody, Kuropaczewski received the Solomon H. Snyder Award and performed at Carnegie Hall in New York.

This was Kuropaczewski's debut performance with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and he played exceptionally, lending a lyrical, moving intensity to the concerto's second movement.

The final piece, "Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony in E. Minor," was performed with a racing tempo which added a marvelous, driving quality to the second movement but rendered the waltzing third movement slightly unstable.

The upcoming calendar at the BSO includes several evenings which feature pieces by this Russian composer: next weekend, his "Hamlet Fantasy Overture," then in January, his "Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat Minor," and his "Symphony No. 2 in C Minor" in March.

In addition to these, an all-Tchaikovsky program including choreography by George Balanchine is planned for the end of April.

The BSO has been making recent forays into venues outside of the concert hall, including a summer guest appearance at Joe

Squared Pizza in Mount Vernon and recent "Conduct Me" pop-up appearances at Baltimore Penn Station and Baltimore Washington International-Thurgood Marshall Airport.

The orchestra has continued its recent interest in performing Movies with Orchestra and at the end of this month, will be performing the classic John Williams score to *Jurassic Park*.

Later in the season, the BSO will perform the score of the *Wizard Of Oz* in October, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* in March and *Raiders of the Lost Ark* in May.

The BSO Pulse Series invites young and contemporary alternative artists to play alongside the Orchestra, in a series of performances held throughout the year. In October, the series will welcome Esperanza Spalding, the bassist who famously won the Best New Artist Grammy.

Also featured in Pulse this season are NPR Tiny Desk Contest Winners Tank and the Bangas as well as Valerie June.

If you're interested in attending more BSO events, it's worth noting that the student passport permits students to attend a number of BSO concerts at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall for a low annual fee, with the exception of special performances.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Conductor Marin Alsop received an award for her work with the Orchestra.

The Emmys highlight diverse TV performances

By KATHERINE LOGAN
Arts & Entertainment Editor

This year's Emmys were far from perfect. We had a controversial, perhaps in poor taste, appearance of Sean Spicer, Sterling K. Brown was unceremoniously cut-off in the middle of his powerful acceptance speech and, as always, some great performances were overlooked.

That said, this year's awards show still felt like a breath of fresh air with regard to the diversity in the kinds of stories (and faces) that we're seeing on the small screen was reflected in the nominees and winners, whom garnered the critical merit they deserve.

Riz Ahmed (also known as Riz MC of the Swet Shop Boys) became the first South Asian man to win an Emmy in an acting category (Lead Actor in a Limited Series or Movie) for his powerful performance as Nasir Khan in the nine-episode legal drama *The Night Of*.

In his speech he discussed the importance of recognizing that the show, while fictional, is a valuable reflection of the experiences of many Muslim Americans

as well as of the often biased nature of our justice system.

"It's always strange reaping the rewards of a story that's based on real world suffering, but if this show has shown a light on some of the prejudice in our society, Islamophobia, some of the injustice in our justice system, then maybe that's something," he said.

Another well-known actor-rapper of color, Donald Glover (also known as Childish Gambino), set a precedent as the first African American to win the award for Outstanding Directing for a Comedy Series for the "B.A.N." episode of his show *Atlanta*. He also took home the statue for Lead Actor in a Comedy Series.

Lena Waithe became the first African American woman to win an Emmy for Outstanding Writing for a Comedy Series for her collaboration with Aziz Ansari on his Netflix masterpiece *Master of None*.

Notably, the episode that won, "Thanksgiving," was based on her personal experiences as a lesbian woman of color, and in her speech she made sure to shout-out her "LGBTQIA family," emphasizing the value in cel-

ebrating diversity.

Sterling K. Brown became the first African American man to win Best Actor in a Drama Series in nearly two decades for his portrayal of Randall Pearson on NBC's hit *Parenthood*-esque show, *This Is Us*.

This comes after his win at last year's ceremony in the Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Limited Series or a Movie category for *The People vs. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story* had already marked him as a talented actor whose career would be worth following.

If you haven't already, I highly recommend you watch the video of him delivering the rest of his acceptance speech in the press room after the show. Be warned, you're going to need some tissues, but what else would you expect from anything *This Is Us* adjacent?

Not only were this year's Emmys valuable for how they challenged racial barriers but also in how they emphasized the value of female-helmed projects that explore diverse narratives of what it means to be a woman (albeit almost always a cisgendered woman, but we have to start somewhere).

Big Little Lies' numerous wins highlighted the power of women showing up for and supporting each other in the industry; The project began when Reese Witherspoon asked Nicole Kidman to help her assure Liane Moriarty than they would do justice to *Big Little Lies* in the midst of a bidding war over the rights to the novel.

It's also worth noting that through the narrative of Kidman and Alexan-

der Skarsgård's characters the show shed light on the complex nature of domestic violence, giving voice to the experiences of a number of women, including Moriarty herself.

Hulu's *The Handmaid's Tale*, based on the Margaret Atwood novel of the same name, tied with *Big Little Lies* for the most wins of the evening. It is the first original show produced by a streaming platform to win the award for Best Drama Series, which is pretty incredible when you pause to recall that 10 years ago this whole realm of the entertainment industry barely existed.

Again, the show's numerous wins showed the power in exploring matters like what it means to be a mother, women's reproductive rights, victim blaming and more in a nuanced way.

The mainstream and critical success of *Big Little Lies* and *The Handmaid's Tale* prove that audiences will respond when women are given the room to serve as more than mere eye-candy.

Meanwhile, the acknowledgement of a variety of strong performances by actors, directors and writers of color, many of whose works are grounded in harsh realities we as Americans rarely like to face, showed that we truly are in a Golden Age Era of TV.

Perhaps the state of the industry is best encapsulated in a line from Brown's speech about *This Is Us* creator Dan Fogelman, "In his own small special way, he's not trying to make America great again, he's trying to make it the best it's ever been."

Confirmed Mood subtly plays with artistic form



COURTESY OF THE CURRENT SPACE
The pieces featured in *Confirmed Mood* shared a common focus on form.

FROM CURRENT SPACE, B3
Claire Chen, alluding to Cone's arch/shield motif.

With a no less artistically inclined background, Demlong, born in 1990, earned his BFA in Sculpture and another in Art Education from Arizona State University before graduating from MICA's MFA program in 2016.

His works focus on the relationship between form and material; Handcrafted wood, long yellow tassels made of string and pom poms feature prominently in three of his large sculptures exhibited in *Confirmed Mood*.

A viewer comes across one of these large, three-foot-long tassels hanging from the wall, presented as a singular work and wonders what its significance could be. The title, in this case, sheds some light — *I Wish I Were Taller* is its name. His work seems largely conceptually based, yet these concepts remain shrouded.

The forms of the pieces themselves are largely abstract, and their titles provide little insight into how one should interpret them. *Some Wood, Some Rope, and a Bag of PomPoms*, the title of one such piece, describes exactly that.

While the size of the piece and the materials Demlong uses draws attention, the way in which the various elements are placed together does not elucidate the concept he is attempting to convey.

Primo, the final featured artist, brings a slightly different background to bear on his art. Born in 1982, he received a BS in Art Education from Central Connecticut State University and worked as an art teacher in the Connecticut public school system for five years before obtaining his MFA from MICA in 2014.

Primo is currently employed at the Smithsonian American Art Museum as an exhibits specialist.

Out of all the featured pieces, his are perhaps the most interesting. They also bespeak a more precise technical skill.

As a whole, he describes his artwork as

"embod[ying] a preoccupation with how and where form is imbued with meaning... Out in the world [construction materials] give shape to our spaces, but they exist in a person's mind as mental objects and definitions representing a mass of associated ideas and emotions."

One can see this exemplified in his piece *There is something in us that has nothing to do with night and day*. Parallel black wooden rods with legs on the end, connected to resemble a table, sit on top of two wide colorful pillars.

The height and width of the piece call to mind a table, and the viewer is inclined to accept it as such, that is, if it were not for the pillars which actually hold up the table-like section.

The presence of these perhaps not additional but central elements, alongside the contrast between the highly colorful bases and the dark wood, question the viewer's expectations and assumptions about the art and form of the work itself.

"The art was an abstract exploration of shape and form, evoking the metaphorical implications and implicit emotions associated within everyday shapes," sophomore Anthony Boutros said, commenting on the exhibit as a whole. "Viewers could explore the endless meanings invoked by each piece."

While *Confirmed Mood* adheres to its theme by remaining largely abstract and leaving the interpretation of the works a very open question, the feeling one is left with after walking through the exhibit is perhaps most like that of sophomore Evan Drukker-Schardl.

He acknowledges that it "elucidated certain interplays between form and color in painting and sculpture." Yet his final conclusion was simply: "It was mediocre."

Confirmed Mood will remain open at Current Space for free through Oct. 1. You can view the pieces on Saturdays and Sundays between 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.



PUBLIC DOMAIN
Donald Glover was one of many to make history at the 2017 Emmys.

Rat Film explores Baltimore's history through its pests

By WILL KIRSCH
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Plenty of cities have rats. They are the archetypal urban pest, something seemingly inseparable from city life. However, for some reason, Baltimore seems to have become known for its rat problem.

Yet, parts of the city have embraced the rat as something of a mascot; There is even a whole range of rat-related merchandise which has become ubiquitous in the more affluent parts of the city.

So maybe it's unsurprising that someone finally made a movie about Baltimore called *Rat Film*, which premiered in 2016 at the 69th Festival del Film Locarno and was released publicly on Sept. 15 at the Parkway Theater.

What is surprising is how much more the film is about other than just rats. Directed by Baltimore-based filmmaker and photographer Theo Anthony, who has worked for *Vice* and *Agence France-Presse* and has produced his own films like *Chop My Money* and *Peace In The Absence of War*, *Rat Film* is a broad vision of Baltimore. It is in part a condemnation of the abuses of power that have taken place here as well as an appreciation for this unique and beautiful place.

Rats tie the story together — a story of both the city and its people — and through them Anthony finds a new approach from which to discuss the histo-

ry of injustice in Baltimore.

Rat Film is as confusing as it is poignant. The drastic cuts and seemingly disconnected scenes force the viewer to consider how the pieces fit together. There are some fixed points within the film, with Baltimore Rat Rubout worker Harold Edmund being the most prevalent.

Edmund has what is likely the most defining line in the film: "It ain't never been a rat problem in Baltimore. Always been a people problem."

Anthony explores both the literal and the metaphorical by following Edmund and other Baltimoreans

as they hunt rats throughout the city, as well as delving into the consequences of segregation and redlining.

Baltimore was influential in the development of housing segregation, and during the 1930s the practice was legitimized by the passage of the National Housing Act.

Baltimore neighborhoods shaded red were squalid, impoverished and majority black communities that were rife with rats — among other things. Anthony emphasizes rats as being synonymous with poverty and racial and economic inequality.

That divide in Baltimore is often embodied by Hopkins, which has long had an antagonistic relationship with the city, and Anthony

capitalizes on this by telling the stories of experiments conducted during the mid-20th century by the University aimed at curbing Baltimore's rat population.

The white faces of the Hopkins researchers and the black faces of the population whose struggles are no more than factors to be studied cut a deep contrast, particularly in a city where the most vulnerable are so often the subjects of examination and experimentation.

Anthony's filmmaking, particularly his often jarring editing, humanizes Baltimore's rat population, makes

them sympathetic symbols of deeper problems. The rat becomes a victim itself, a consequence of institutionalized racism and economic injustice.

Like Edmund says early in the film, there is no rat problem. That sensitive approach to both rats and people, as well as how they coexist in Baltimore, is juxtaposed against certain cold, scientific features.

Throughout the film, the cold and sometimes mechanical voice of Maureen Jones provides commentary. She runs through facts and figures, names and dates, in a way that seems to speak for the dehumanized approach to Baltimore as a city.

In the same vein, *Rat*

Anthony sees similarities between the treatment of people and the treatment of rats.

Errata: April 1 Edition

In the September 7 issue of *The News-Letter*, Playboi Carti was mischaracterized as not having released any music between 2015 and 2017.

The News-Letter regrets this error.

CARTOONS, ETC.



A ‘Hug’ Without ‘u’ is Just Mercury...



By: GISELLE RUIZ

9/21/2017 Crossword

1.	6.	7.	8.	9.
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				

By: ROLLIN HU

Across

- 1. “Yeah!” Artist
- 2. “_____ Mia!”
- 3. Accuse
- 4. One of the Gilmore Girls
- 5. Picnic invader

Down

- 1. Eclipse shadow
- 6. Hair stylist home
- 7. Korean grocery store
- 8. TV award
- 9. Carly _____ Jepsen

Answers available online at <http://www.jhunewsletter.com/category/cartoons/>

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Students explore public health in Cape Town Gut bacteria predicts ability to lose weight



COURTESY OF ISAAC CHEN
Over the summer, Hopkins interns gained new perspectives while solving public health problems.

By ISAAC CHEN
Staff Writer

A group of 11 undergraduates traveled thousands of miles from Baltimore to Cape Town, South Africa this summer to expand their perspective on critical public health issues. For six weeks, the students took courses at the University of Cape Town, which ranged from topics in health behavior models to traditional medicine. The students also interned at five different local non-governmental organizations. One of the organizations that students interned with was the Triangle Project, which aims to eradicate discrimination in the LGBTQ community and provide a variety of services such as counseling and sexual health clinics. Although South Africa was the fifth country in the world — and the only country in Africa — to legalize same sex marriage since 2006, people in the

LGBTQ community continue to face challenges in the post-apartheid era. Homophobic violence and a high rate of HIV/AIDS are both still pressing problems. Toby Harris, a senior majoring in public health, worked with the Triangle Project. Alongside her partner, senior Max Morris, they both drafted a policy briefing on LGBTQ sensitivity training for health care providers and designed posters to raise awareness about sexually transmitted diseases. In an email to *The News-Letter*, Harris recalled the warm and welcoming environment of the Triangle Project. “One of the things I particularly liked about their site was the sense of community you found there,” she wrote. “From watching the different staff interact with each other to seeing the clients use services and community members hang out in the office, it

was clear how important the organization is for providing a safe place for LGBTI people.” Harris and Morris also visited the South African Parliament to observe several committee meetings. Although the topics addressed during the meeting did not necessarily align with the Triangle Project’s ideals, Harris explained in a blog post that these are still useful relationships for the Triangle Project. “[T]hese relationships can prove useful when the Triangle Project is trying to lobby for more relatable or pertinent issues, like the need for widespread LGBTI sensitivity training for instance,” he wrote. Two other students on the trip, Jasmine Okafor and Karina Rahaman, interned at the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation Women of Worth (WOW) Program. The Program aims to help and empower young South African women between the ages of 19 and 24. WOW offers monthly workshops where they can learn essential life skills and receive both guidance and opportunities from mentors. Okafor, who is double majoring in public health and behavioral biology, and Rahaman, a junior majoring in Medicine, Science and the Humanities, explained some of the obstacles these women face. “[These women are] experiencing all different kinds of barriers in their

life mostly due to the community they have grown up in,” Okafor said. The 12 empowerment sessions offered by WOW cover various topics like contraceptives, resume building and mental health. Rahaman recalled her first day working for WOW. “We spent the day with the facilitators of the empowerment sessions. These facilitators, called ignitors, are women from the community who lead the sessions and serve as role models for the participants,” Rahaman said. She added that during the discussion the facilitators each explained why they chose to be a part of the project. “Their answers spoke to their own personal experiences and the culture of South Africa,” Rahaman said. For Rahaman, listening to their stories was both emotionally powerful and helped provide insight into the social norms within the community. “This experience provided me with insight and knowledge which I know I can’t find in a book, but through interacting with people and immersing myself in a new culture,” she said. Okafor discussed how her experience working with WOW has encouraged her to look at problems in Baltimore through a new lens. “HIV is also very prominent in Baltimore, and a lot of people don’t realize that it is still a large issue. Similar to working in Cape Town, the environment plays a large factor on how individuals behave,” Okafor said. “I think it would be interesting to also create a program with

By ANNA CHEN
For *The News-Letter*

Have you ever tried dieting and found that those fruits, veggies and whole wheat toasts just never work? A new study lead by Arne Astrup, head of the department of nutrition, exercise and sports at the University of Copenhagen, offers a possible explanation. According to the study, testing a human fecal sample can reveal whether or not a person is likely to lose weight by following the typical dietary recommendations of fruit, vegetables, fiber and whole grain content. Why? It all has to do with the millions and trillions of bacteria in the human gut. Also known as gut flora, the diverse group of microorganisms that live in our digestive tracts make up the largest community of bacteria and the greatest number of species concentrated in any one area of

the body. They are essential to human survival, because while we provide them with a safe habitat and a constant supply of food, they are responsible for fermenting and metabolizing what we eat. They also synthesize important nutrients such as vitamin B and K. In fact, dysregulation in gut flora causes a multitude of inflammatory and autoimmune conditions, as well as obesity. Given that more than two in three American adults are considered overweight or obese, scientists have spent years looking into whether intestinal bacteria can be manipulated to treat obesity. Until now, they had not found anything promising. What Astrup and his team recently discovered is a breakthrough that shines some light on the role gut flora can play in regulating

SEE BACTERIA, PAGE B9



PUBLIC DOMAIN
Human stool provides an indication of how someone loses weight.

Group interactions foster increased immoral action

By SHERRY SIMKOVIC
Staff Writer

A group of German and Austrian researchers from the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences collaborated on a recent study titled “I Lie? We Lie! Why? Experimental evidence on a dishonesty shift in groups.” Published in the journal *Management Science*, the study suggests that when in groups people tend to act more immorally than when they’re alone. Over recent years, many major companies, including WorldCom, Enron and Volkswagen, have been involved in major lies to the public. Led by Martin Kocher, Simeon Schudy and Lisa Spantig of the Ludwig-Maximilians-University (LMU) Munich, the experiments attempted to answer questions about how we can explain the observed unethical behavior. Can we reduce it down to the aggregation of individual failures to comply with the

norm, or can we assume that there are aspects inherent to organizations that better account for the phenomenon? Through a series of experiments with 273 test participants, Kocher and his colleagues first worked to confirm that individuals do in fact act differently in groups and then worked to uncover the reasons. During the experiments, subjects participated in a die-rolling task. The team asked participants to watch a video of a dice roll and then report on the results in exchange for monetary compensation. The higher the result of the dice roll, the higher the pay-off. First, individuals watched videos, and then those same individuals participated in a group of three. The team designed two group settings; One in which all the group members reported on the same number to receive a pay-off and one in which each individual member of the group does not have to

SEE ETHICAL, PAGE B9

Researchers find antibiotic protein in honeybees

By AVERY GULINO
For *The News-Letter*

As new strains of bacteria grow stronger and more resistant to drugs, antibiotics may become less effective. This is known as antibiotic resistance. Antibiotics impede the growth of microorganisms that may cause the onset of various infectious diseases. They work by targeting the ribosomes in bacterial cells. In doing so, the protein synthesis process that occurs in the ribosome is disrupted, and the bacterial cell fails to function, thereby preventing the infection from getting worse.



PUBLIC DOMAIN
Honey bees create a unique protein that protects them from infection.

Antibiotics were first accidentally developed by Alexander Fleming in 1928 in the form of penicillin. From then on, more than 100 different compounds have been found that have proven to be more effective in attacking other bacterial strains. However, no new antibiotics have been discovered since 1987. Given our reliance on antibiotics, this poses a significant threat to society. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), roughly two million people are infected by strains of bacteria that are resistant to anti-

biotics every year. Nearly 23,000 people die each year as a direct result. As different bacterial strains develop a resistance to antibiotics, it will become harder and harder to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. The lack of a new antibiotic compound is proving to be one of the most pressing issues for the CDC. Researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) College of Pharmacy’s center for biomolecular sciences may have provided a breakthrough to this problem. The answer? Honeybees. Insects such as bees, wasps and hornets produce a protein that helps protect them from infections. This protein, apidaecin — known as Api137 — works very differently from the antibiotics discovered by Fleming. Instead of attacking the protein factory in the ribosome, which makes proteins for the whole cell, the Api137 is a protein that inhibits protein production in destructive bacteria. According to Alexander Mankin, a UIC researcher, Api137 is the first known

inhibitor of translation termination. In other words, protein production is stopped by altering various stages of protein translation (the process by which DNA is ‘translated’ into protein molecules). Mankin released his findings in the journal *Nature Structural & Molecular Biology*. While researchers at UIC are looking at the important contributions of honeybees in antibiotics, Canadian researchers at Saint Mary’s University are investigating antibiotics through bat colonies. Professor Clarissa Sit is attempting to discover a new antibiotic compound capable of killing various superbugs through natural tactics. “We basically look to [nature] for inspiration, because some of the more complex drugs we use — not just antibiotics but other types of drugs like for blood pressure lowering or cholesterol lowering drugs — are also from natural sources originally,” Sit said in a *Natural News* article. It’s safe to say that we can expect a newly discovered antibiotic compound in the near future.

High fat diet displays health benefits in mice

By AVERY GULINO

For The News-Letter

The Bacon Diet. Believe it or not, there is an actual diet colloquially known as the Bacon Diet, and it may just stave off illness, help you lose weight, help you become stronger, give you more energy and help you live longer.

This eating plan does not consist of only bacon but rather many different high-fat foods with very limited carbs. This drives your body into what is known as ketosis, where the body shifts from using glucose as its main fuel source to burning fat to generate ketones for energy.

Ketogenic diets have been used for almost a hundred years — clinically, for the most part, since the 1920s to treat epilepsy, especially in kids. They have only grown in popularity in the past few years when people began to notice its amazing health benefits: everything from improving symptoms of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease and protecting the brain in cases of stroke and injury, to improving cardiovascular health and reducing the risk of cancer.

Most recently, however, studies at the University of California, Davis have found that the ketogenic diet can also help you live longer and retain a better quality of life.

In this study, a research team observed mice eating very specific diets with varying amounts of fats and carbs over the course of their entire lives, measuring their mental and physical abilities along the way.

The researchers separated mice into three different groups: the control group, which got 65 percent of their daily calories from fat, a low-carb group that ate 70 percent of their calories from fat and a ketogenic group that got 89 percent of daily calories from fat.

The calorie counts among these diets were kept the same to ensure caloric intake was not a factor in the study.

The reason for that was while restricted calories have been proven to slow the process of aging in mice, the main focus of this study was to determine if the proportions of macronutrients in a limited calorie diet would have any effect.

According to *ScienceDaily*, Jon Ramsey, the senior author of the paper, was surprised by the results they

found.

"We expected some differences, but I was impressed by the magnitude I observed — a 13 percent increase in median life span for the mice on a high-fat vs. high-carb diet," he said. "In humans, that would be seven to 10 years. But equally important, those mice retained quality of health in later life."

The research team tested the mice in the study in a series of tests at 13 months and then again at 26 months to see how the effects of time and the diet changed not only their physical strength but also their mental acuity.

To test memory, the mice were put through a novel object recognition test. The mice on the ketogenic diet performed better than those on the low-carb and control diet.

To test their physical abilities, the mice had their grip strength evaluated by hanging on wires and by going through speed and rearing tests. In every evaluation, however, the mice on ketogenic diets showed that they retained greater physical fitness later in life.

One of the most promising inadvertent results of the study was the mice on the ketogenic diet had fewer tumors in their body upon death.

The link between ketogenic diets and cancer treatments has been somewhat established, and further clinical trials are being called upon to explore the correlation between the two. The ketogenic diet is hypothesized to affect cancer cells through glucose 'starvation.' This denies energy molecules to tumor cells which then inhibits their cell division rates.

Because the aging process in humans and mice is not that different at the molecular level, there is hope that the results of increased life span, mental acuity and physical ability will translate to human life as well.

"In this case, many of the things we're looking at aren't much different from humans," Ramsey said to *ScienceDaily*. "At a fundamental level, humans follow similar changes and experience a decrease in overall function of organs during aging."

Overall, this study indicates that there are multiple positive effects of this ketogenic "bacon" diet, ranging from cancer research to Alzheimer's and even longevity.

By ELAINE CHIAO
Staff Writer

Recently, a group of scientists led by Assistant Bioengineering Professor Lulu Qian at Caltech developed the first "DNA robot." This molecular robot was designed to perform precise nanomechanic tasks that retrieve and transport certain molecules around the body.

"Just like electromechanical robots are sent off to faraway places, like Mars, we would like to send molecular robots to minuscule places where humans can't go, such as the bloodstream," Qian said during a press release.

The project was led by Anupama Thubagere, a former graduate student at Caltech.

In order to construct the robot from scratch, researchers on Thubagere's team came up with three distinctive parts that would generate a successfully working nanomachine: a metaphoric leg that supports the robot's structure and facilitates its movement, a metaphorical arm and hand that could pick up target molecules or "cargo," and a sensitized segment that has the ability to recognize drop-off sites and consequently release the cargo at the site.

A major hurdle the researchers had to cross was deciding what this molecular robot should be made of. The answer turned out to involve no complex mechanical structures

but rather something surprisingly simple: a single strand of DNA.

Creating the robot out of DNA was made feasible by scientists' recent ability to manipulate some of the DNA's physical and chemical properties.

A single strand of DNA can be composed of infinitely many combinations of four nucleotides that come in the familiar abbreviations of A, T, C and G. Each of these nucleotides has one other that they pair with.

For example, A specifically pairs with T, and C specifically pairs with G. When two single strands of DNA are zipped together, they form what is known as a double helix.

After deciding that the robot would be made of DNA, the team had to confront various challenges associated with the molecule.

Firstly, double-stranded DNA helices are often "unzipped" through natural mechanisms.

The speed at which the strands are unzipped is directly related to the amount of energy expended.

Researchers needed



PUBLIC DOMAIN

The first nanorobot was created by programming the properties of a single strand of DNA.

to be able to measure the speed at which DNA was unzipped in order to know the required energy input.

On top of that, researchers needed to be able to measure the length of the involved DNA strands. By calculating the specific strand's length, researchers were able to build "legs" that are at the optimized lengths for carrying out the desired mechanical functions.

The magic number for the robot turned out to be six nanometers, about the third of the size of a ribosome.

In a sense, the DNA robot's functions are almost analogous to the roles of a housekeeper, as the autonomous molecular machine is able to perform housekeeping duties at the nanoscale level.

Qian's lab invented the robot largely out of the curiosity of exploring the

fundamental engineering principles underlying the development of an undifferentiated DNA robot.

The lab's most recent work was published in a paper in the Sept. 15 issue of *Science*.

Although currently the robot does not have any medically or technologically relevant applications, Qian expressed her long-term vision for the robot's future progressive goal in a press release.

"It is my hope that other researchers could use these principles for exciting applications, such as using a DNA robot for synthesizing a therapeutic chemical from its constituent parts in an artificial molecular factory, delivering a drug only when a specific signal is given in bloodstreams or cells, or sorting molecular components in trash for recycling," Qian said.

Wrap up: the latest in technology...

By WILLIAM XIE
Staff Writer

Hurricane Irma takes down wireless services

Due to Hurricane Irma, over eight million subscribers to cable and wireline services have lost access last Wednesday. The subscribers (residents of Alabama, Florida and Georgia) lost either internet, television or cellular services.

24.6 percent of cell sites in Florida lost service. Five Florida counties lost up to 50 percent of their wireless service.

This Sunday, the Federal Communications Commission's Commissions Status Report for Areas Impacted by Hurricane Irma determined 1.1 million cable systems and wireline subscribers were out of service.

New iPhone X released

This Tuesday marked the iPhone's 10th anniversary. The new iPhone X features a 1125 by 2436 Organic Light Emitting Diode (OLED) display, the first iPhone to use OLED. In contrast to traditional displays which illuminate every pixel, OLED provides pixels that have their own illumination, thereby producing better contrast and richer colors. The iPhone X also features an edge to edge display.

The new phone includes a new "power" or "side" button that is also used for Siri and Apple Pay. The home button is removed entirely. The function of the home button is retained by swiping up from the bottom.

Face recognition is used in place of Touch ID to unlock the device. According to Phil Schiller, Apple's senior vice president of worldwide marketing, the face recognition is so secure that there exists only one in a million chance that someone can unlock your phone compared to the one in 50,000 chance using Touch ID.

The iPhone X is equipped with an A11 processor and 3GB of RAM. The battery life of the iPhone was increased by two hours.

The phone's overall specs weren't the only thing that increased. The price of the phone is set at \$999 and is available for pre-order on Oct. 27.

Government bans Russian cyber security products

On Wednesday, the U.S. federal government chose to ban all products made by the Russian cyber security company, Kaspersky Lab. The Department of Homeland Security issued the ban after concerns of cyber espionage involving the cybersecurity firm and Russian intelligence.

"Kaspersky Lab has always acknowledged that it provides appropriate products and services to governments around the world to protect those organizations from cyberthreats, but it does not have unethical ties or affiliations with any government, including Russia," a Kaspersky Lab spokesperson said during a press release.

The ban is limited to civilian government and thus does not affect the military. The Kaspersky products are expected to be removed within 90 days.

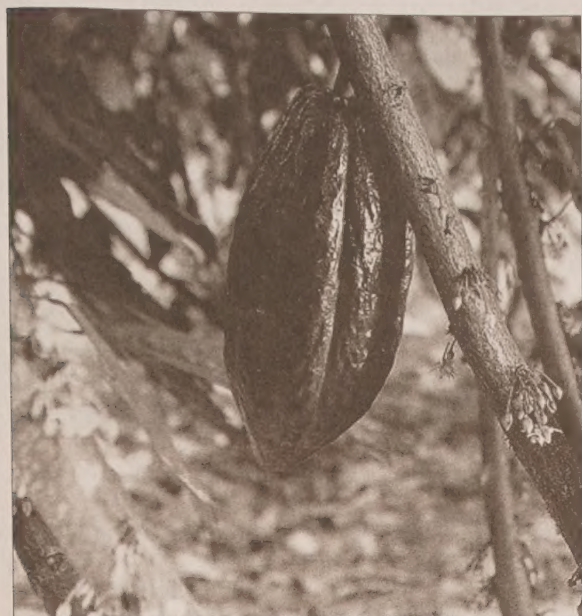


PUBLIC DOMAIN

The study can be applied to human health as mice age similarly to humans.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Compound in chocolate might combat diabetes



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Certain compounds in cocoa can help the body respond to increased glucose.

By **SABRINA CHEN**
Science & Technology Editor

Diabetics are commonly told to avoid candy and other sugary foods. In fact, most diabetics are put on a strict diet and closely monitor their sugar intake by taking glucose tests multiple times a day.

Recently, however, a group of Brigham Young University (BYU) and Virginia Tech researchers have discovered that eating chocolate may be helpful in preventing and treating diabetes.

Diabetes is a disease characterized by the body's inability to respond to elevated levels of glucose in the blood and urine.

The disease is specifically associated with the hormone insulin, created by the pancreas. This hormone allows the body to use sugar from the food

one consumes for energy and to store sugar for future use.

If insulin sensitivity is impaired, a person may suffer from hyperglycemia (blood sugar levels that are higher than normal). Symptoms associated with hyperglycemia include increased thirst and need to urinate.

While eating chocolate to treat diabetes seems counterintuitive, there is scientific reasoning behind the claim. Namely certain compounds found in cocoa can help the human body respond to increased blood glucose by releasing more insulin.

The experiment done at Virginia Tech to prove this claim consisted of researchers feeding cocoa compounds to different animals. The animals were fed a restricted high-fat diet. What researchers found was that the compound decreased obesity in these animals and even helped to moderate blood glucose levels.

After this initial association was found, a group of researchers at BYU under the direction of Jeffery Tessem, assistant professor of nutrition, dietetics and food science at BYU, attempted to find out what was hap-

pening on a molecular level. This group was the first to be able to find the exact molecule in chocolate that combats diabetics.

They focused on beta cells — cells of the pancreas that create insulin. The researchers found that compounds named epicatechin that are found in cocoa help to enhance the beta cells' ability to create insulin.

The study was published in the *Journal of Nutritional Biochemistry*.

"What happens is [epicatechin is] protecting the cells, it's increasing their ability to deal with oxidative stress," Tessem said, according to *ScienceDaily*. "The epicatechin monomers are making the mitochondria in the beta cells stronger, which produces more ATP (a cell's energy source), which then results in more insulin being released."

Previous studies have also shown that dark chocolate can help to reduce the oxidative stress caused by chronic diabetes.

"What happens is [the cocoa compound] is protecting the cells, it's increasing their ability to deal with oxidative stress."

— **JEFFERY TESSEM,**
BYU ASST. PROFESSOR

ar levels of diabetics cause the sugar to act as a toxin on nerve cells, increasing the amount of substances called free radicals.

Free radicals can cause oxidative stress. Dark chocolate is rich in antioxidants and can prevent cell damage.

Furthermore, it has been found that dark chocolate can reduce LDL (bad cholesterol) levels and increase HDL (good cholesterol) levels.

The authors of the study hope that the findings will help physicians and scientists use compounds in cocoa to maintain normal glucose levels and to delay and prevent the onset of type-2 diabetes.

However, for now, Tessem warns diabetics and pre-diabetics to avoid consuming sugar-rich chocolate bars.

"You probably have to eat a lot of cocoa, and you probably don't want it to have a lot of sugar in it," said Tessem, according to *ScienceDaily*. "It's the compound in cocoa you're after."

Students complete public health internships abroad

CAPE TOWN, FROM B7 workshops to empower women to be more than just what their environment is thought to produce."

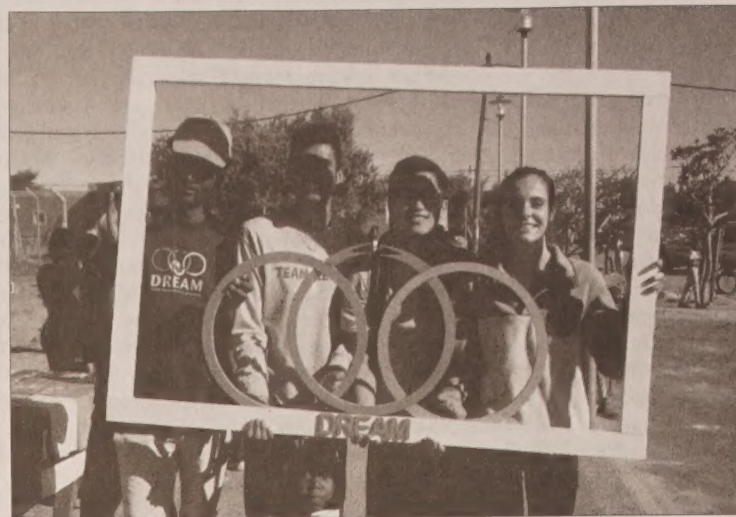
Meagan Hawes, the trip leader and now a medical student at Rutgers University, expressed her thoughts about working outside the U.S.

"Spending time abroad can make you think about who you are, where you're from and why you do what you do. You don't have to leave home to raise these questions, of course, but intentionally stepping away from a place that is familiar and encountering new perspectives, often serves as a catalyst," Hawes said. "The marvelous part is that these reflections are carried from a place that is familiar and encountering new perspectives, often serves as a catalyst," Hawes said. "The marvelous part is that these reflections are carried from a place that is familiar and encountering new perspectives, often serves as a catalyst," Hawes said.

Lisa Folda, the assistant director of the public health studies program and director of the Cape

Town study abroad program, highlighted the importance of avoiding making assumptions and keeping an open mind in any internship experience.

"The truth is, an internship experience in South Africa may not be that different from one in the U.S. — or, rather, a student's approach to it may not be," Folda said. "No matter the setting, students must be vigilant about approaching their work with humility and curiosity. Those are critical elements to capitalizing on a good mentor and learning experience."



COURTESY OF ISAAC CHEN

Students took courses at the University of Cape Town and interned at different local nonprofits.

Folda added that, specifically in South Africa, students may find a lower resource setting if they are part of a community-based organization. She encouraged students to ask a lot of questions in a respectful way in order to learn about the mission and goals of their organization.

"No matter where you

are, a major pitfall to avoid is making assumptions about a place or population before beginning the work," Folda said. "Yes, you can and should educate yourself ahead of time, but it is critical to keep an open mind, to really listen to your collaborators and guides and to have the flexibility to allow your ideas to evolve along with your time there."

Working in groups promotes unethical behavior

ETHICAL, FROM B7 report the same result. However, in the third scenario if reported numbers differed within a group, no one received payoff.

In the individual experiments, the researchers found that 61.5 percent of participants misreported their number.

In the first group scenario, where all members had to report the same number, 89.7 percent of participants lied. In the second group scenario, 86.3 percent of participants were dishonest.

"We observed that groups lie significantly more than individuals when group members face mutual financial gain and have to coordinate an action in order to realize that financial gain," Kocher said in a press release.

Perhaps one of the most interesting results came

from the ability of participants to interact with each other in group settings.

Participants were placed in a group chat with one another, in which they could discuss anything from the weather to the weekend, and where they were going to report the result.

Even if individuals reported honestly in the first part of the experiment, the same individuals tended to report dishonestly in the group scenarios. This result debunks the theory that unethical behavior in group situations comes from individual belief systems.

As a result of their ability to communicate, each participant was more disillusioned to the others' honesty.

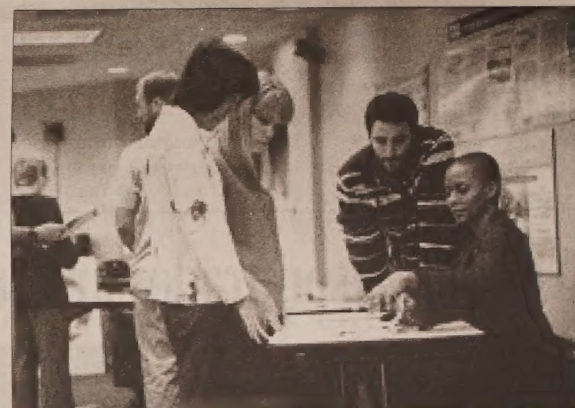
In other words, each person's expectations about honest behavior in the experiment were lowered as a result of reason-

ing the solution out with one another.

In fact, of the messages that were exchanged among group members, 43.4 percent argued for dishonest reporting, while only 15.6 percent consisted of arguments for honesty.

"The ability for group members to exchange and

discuss potential justifications for their dishonest behavior can create an overall shift in the group's beliefs of what constitutes moral behavior," Spantig said. "This allows them to establish a new norm regarding what does or does not constitute dishonest behavior."



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Groups lie more than individuals when faced with mutual financial gain.

Stool samples shown to predict weight loss abilities

BACTERIA, FROM B7 weight and losing weight.

That role is clear — the ratio between two groups of intestinal bacteria, namely Prevotella bacteria and Bacteroides, was found to be crucial in determining whether overweight people lost weight after being on a special "New Nordic Diet" that follows the national dietary recommendations of Denmark, which includes large amounts of fruits, vegetables, fibers and

whole grain.

The study, consisting of 54 subjects, had 31 of them eat the New Nordic Diet for 26 weeks and the other 23 subjects eat an Average Danish Diet. On average, those on the New Nordic Diet lost 3.5 kg, while those on the Average Danish Diet lost an average of 1.7 kg.

The subjects were then divided by levels of intestinal bacteria. People with a high proportions of Prevotella compared to Bacte-

roides lost 3.5 kg more in 26 weeks when they ate the New Nordic Diet compared to people with similar intestinal bacteria proportions but ate the Average Danish Diet.

Contrastingly, the subjects with a low ratio of Prevotella to Bacteroides did not lose any more weight on the New Nordic Diet than they did on the Average Danish Diet. Approximately half of the world's population has a high proportion of Prevotella compared to Bacteroides.

So for 50 percent of the human population, eating more fruit, vegetables, fibers and whole grains may not result in a change in body weight at all.

This study demonstrates that what may work for some people may not work for all, and those health magazines saying that they know the perfect diet that results in weight loss may be correct for some individuals but, for many others, they won't be.

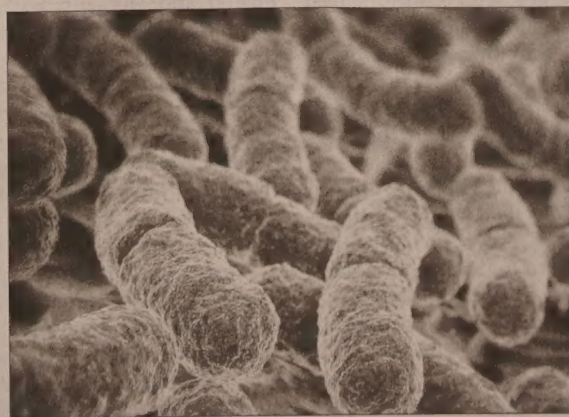
The future of medicine

and therapy promises personalization, adapting treatment methods to each individual patient and their specific cases.

The results of this study point out that personalized guidance is the most effective weight loss strategy and is the best solution to the rising numbers of obesity and related health issues.

Biomarkers in fecal samples or blood samples directly from the body have the potential to play an immensely important role in nutritional guidance because they allow healthcare professionals to tailor guidance and treatment to each individual.

"This is a major step forward in personalized nutritional guidance. Guidance based on this knowledge of intestinal bacteria will most likely be more effective than the 'one size fits all' approach that often characterizes dietary recommendations and dietary guidance," Assistant Professor Mads Fiil Hjorth said, according to *ScienceDaily*.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Low levels of gut bacteria have been shown to be correlated to obesity.

SPORTS

Jays switch to Baltimore-based Under Armour

By GREGORY MELICK
Sports Editor

Director of Athletics Alanna Shanahan announced on August 28 that the school agreed to a multi-year deal with the Baltimore-based company Under Armour.

The company replaced Nike as the official outfitter for Hopkins athletics.

Under Armour has recently had similar deals with six other Maryland-based schools — Towson University; Loyola University; Howard University; University of Maryland, College Park; University of Maryland, Baltimore County; and the United States Naval Academy.

The company now adds the Blue Jays to the list of Charm City schools.

The company has been looking to build a base in Baltimore, and adding Hopkins to its network of schools is another brick in their growing foundation.

At the beginning of September, Under Armour announced its “We Will” campaign, aimed at aiding the city of Baltimore through philanthropy and volunteering. It is especially focused on assisting the community through sports.

The schools in the Baltimore area that have deals with Under Armour will be assisting in this effort.

Shanahan sees this campaign as part of other University efforts in increasing ties to the community.

“Under Armour presented a number of unique opportunities, including a shared interest in investment and commitment to the city of Baltimore,” Shanahan said.

Shanahan sees the

proximity between Hopkins and the Under Armour headquarters in Baltimore as a benefit to the partnership.

She points out that students will have access to internships, part-time and permanent jobs and special events on the Under Armour campus.

These close connections were lacking when Hopkins worked with companies like Nike, which is based in Oregon.

An additional reason for the switch was the pre-existing relationship between the Baltimore-based sportswear company and the University.

On May 8, 2014, Under Armour made its largest donation to date to the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center to support breast cancer research, breast health and to the Skip Viragh Outpatient Building, which is slated to open in the spring of 2018.

Hopkins Medicine has also had a relationship with Under Armour in the past, as the two worked together on Under Armour’s health and fitness applications.

The collaboration was announced at the beginning of the year with the goal of helping individuals lead more healthy lifestyles, with professional advice from the experts at Hopkins.

Shanahan pointed out one issue with transitioning to Under Armour.

“The timing of the transition was a hardship for fall sports,” Shanahan said. “The student athletes are also adjusting to size and fit of uniforms, apparel and footwear.”

With a short amount of time between preseason,

when fall athletes first arrive on campus, and the official start of the regular season, replacing all of the old Nike gear with new Under Armour apparel was going to be a challenge.

Another obstacle to the transition was that many believe Under Armour to be only a basketball and football brand.

Some athletes questioned whether they would be stuck wearing basketball shoes to play volleyball or football cleats to play soccer.

Nonetheless, Under Armour met all these challenges; Teams found that they were properly equipped with what they needed as their seasons dawned.

So far this season, many Hopkins teams have been performing remarkably well.

All of the University’s fall sports have a combined record of 35-6-1 at this point in the season for a winning percentage of 80 percent.

The University’s athletic success appeals to Under Armour as the company seeks to establish a “winning” brand.

No team has lost more than two games so far, and both men’s soccer and football are undefeated. Additionally, the Hopkins women’s cross country team is currently ranked first in the country, and the men’s team is ranked fifth.

This kind of success has become almost expected from the Blue Jay athletic

teams, as the school has finished in the top 10 in the Learfield Directors’ Cup — which recognizes the best all-around athletic schools from each division — for six of the last seven years.

Junior baseball player Tim Kutcher has not received any Under Armour gear yet, as he plays a spring sport.

However, he is still excited about the upcoming transition and looks forward to the new equipment.

“I think in the end it will look nice for everybody to be all Under Armour,” he wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. “My only complaint would be that if we are eventually required to be exclusively Under Armour, then we might have to get a lot of our own new equipment.”

Kutcher also saw this partnership as a way for Hopkins to build ties with other Baltimore institutions.

“Under Armour obviously has a huge presence in Baltimore and in Maryland,” he wrote. “The partnership will associate Hopkins more tightly with Baltimore.”

Questions still remain regarding when all the old Nike gear will be phased out and what Under Armour gear student athletes must buy themselves.

Although the transition is not yet complete, the fall sports have shown that the switch has not impeded the performance of Hopkins sports teams.

“Under Armour presented a number of unique opportunities.”

— ALANNA SHANAHAN,
DIR. OF ATHLETICS

Volleyball sweeps all three weekend matches



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM

Wu broke the Hopkins program record for most aces in a single game.

By BRANDON WOLFE
For *The News-Letter*

Hopkins volleyball continued their explosive start this weekend, with dominant performances against the St. Mary’s College Seahawks, the Bryn Mawr College Owls and the Goucher College Gophers in three sets apiece.

Starting on Friday night, the Jays kicked off their weekend by taking on the St. Mary’s Seahawks. The Blue Jay victory extended their winning-streak against the Seahawks to 16 games in a row.

St. Mary’s was able to keep it close at the start of the match, as the teams battled back and forth for much the first set.

However, the Seahawks were unable to answer to the firepower of the Jays: After battling back and forth, the Blue Jays finally found their beat and finished up the first set at 25-16.

After the competitive first set, Hopkins dominated the rest of the match. The Jays took the second set 25-6 before putting the nail in the coffin with a 25-10 victory in the third set to sweep the Seahawks.

Senior outside hitter Elizabeth Wuerstle dominated the service game all match, recording 10 aces, one short of a school record, while sophomore outside hitter Louisa Kishton was an offensive force, leading the team in hitting percentage (0.737) and kills (14).

Complementing the impressive offensive showing, the Blue Jays racked up 35 assists, including 14 each for senior middle Kristi Rhead and freshman setter Natalie Aston.

Saturday featured a pair of matches for Hopkins, as they hosted a tri-match tournament in Goldfarb Gym featuring Bryn Mawr and Goucher.

Hopkins started their day against the Owls, setting the tone early with five straight points to open up the contest. From there, they

did not look back, claiming the first set 25-8.

Carrying their momentum into the second set, Hopkins was led by freshman opposite Morgan Wu’s seven aces, holding complete control of the entire set for a 25-3 beat-down.

On Wu’s serve, the Jays went on an 11-point streak to take the final set convincingly in 25-8. With 13 aces in the match, Wu set a new program service record, which previously stood at 11.

Starting the day 1-0, the Jays improved their record against Bryn Mawr to 23-2.

Finishing off their doubleheader with a matchup against the Gophers, Hopkins picked up where they left off, taking the first set 25-8.

Goucher fired back in the second set and held the lead for a majority of the contest before the Jays rallied back to finish the set at 25-23.

Goucher continued to give the Jays a run for their money in the early goings of the third set, but Hopkins was too much for the Gophers, taking the third set in 25-15 for their second sweep of the day.

“Overall we were pleased with how we are coming together as a team,” Kishton said. “When playing teams that are not a huge challenge it is hard to bring out your best, but we did a good job of staying crisp and still playing our game when we weren’t being ‘challenged.’”

After the wins this weekend, the Blue Jays increase their winning streak to seven matches, one short of an eight-match win streak, which the team last achieved in 2014.

Plus, sweeping all three teams in three straight sets means that Hopkins has not lost a set since Sept. 8.

The Blue Jays are next in action on Sept. 23 when they travel to take on Susquehanna University.

NBA offseason trades are sure to shake up the League

NBA, FROM B12

There is no doubt that Minnesota will make significant progress this year. It is highly likely that they finish the upcoming season with a winning record.

However, they may still be a year or two away from being one of the Conference’s elite teams.

Once they do reach their potential, though, they have a chance to be one of the best teams in the NBA for a very long time.

Minnesota’s rebuilding process has been extremely lengthy. In fact, they have the League’s longest playoff drought, but the Butler trade appears to have finally put them back in position to contend.

Last but not least is the blockbuster deal that shook up the East and spiced up the rivalry between the Conference’s top two teams.

The trade between the Boston Celtics and Cleveland Cavaliers that sent Kyrie Irving to Boston in exchange for Isaiah Thomas, Jae Crowder, Ante Žižić and two draft picks for Cleveland was completely unexpected.

The team talked about trade this offseason, Irving’s move to Boston, has shaken up expectations for the anticipated Eastern Conference Finals match-

up between the Celtics and the Cavaliers, which is sure to make for an interesting matchup.

Both teams will take time to gel, as their rosters have significantly changed since last season.

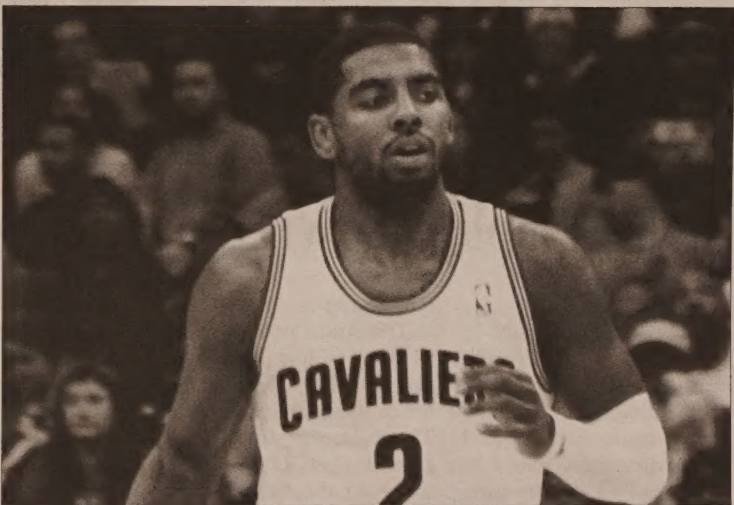
In Cleveland, there is a cloud of uncertainty surrounding Thomas’ hip, and it is unknown when he will be able to return from the injury.

Meanwhile, in Boston, the Celtics will have an almost entirely new team out on the court this season. This team has experienced extraordinary turnover.

To put it into perspective, Marcus Smart — who is entering his fourth season with the Celtics — is now the team’s longest tenured player.

Boston has a plethora of talent, led by Irving, Gordon Hayward and Al Horford.

Additionally, Smart and the youngsters Jaylen Brown, along with Jayson



ERIK DROST/CC BY 2.0

Kyrie Irving will no longer be in a Cavs jersey this coming season as he moves to Boston.

Tatum, figure to be key components for the team moving forward into the season.

In the end, though, as much talent as Boston has, they do not have LeBron James, who is still the best player on the planet.

As long as Cleveland has LeBron, they should be the favorites to represent the East in the NBA Finals.

While LeBron’s time in Cleveland may be dwindling down, he will still be there for at least one more season and is therefore in position to reach an eighth consecutive Finals.

This summer’s key transactions have changed the trajectories and expectations for many teams

around the League. In the end though, a fourth consecutive Cavaliers vs. Warriors NBA Finals matchup is still widely anticipated.

While teams such as Boston and Houston will try to unseat the favorites, the likelihood of either of those teams emerging from a best-of-seven series is highly improbable.

It is certainly possible that the offseason provided more surprises than the actual season will.

However, at the very least, it will be exciting to watch the numerous teams that have undergone drastic changes this summer give Golden State and Cleveland a run for their money.

Errata: Sept. 14 edition

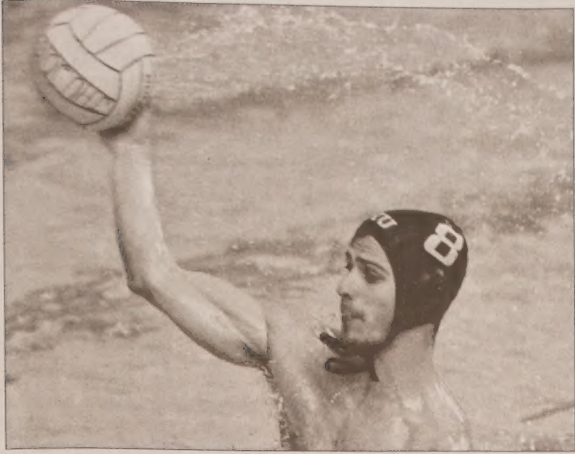
In the Sept. 14, 2017 edition of *The News-Letter*, the front page photo of the women’s volleyball game was one from last year.

The News-Letter regrets this error.

SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK:
MICHELLE SANTANGELO — WOMEN'S SOCCER

Water Polo goes undefeated
at the Bucknell Invitational



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM

Giorgio Cico scored five goals and had eight assists throughout the weekend.

By **ESTHER HONG**
Sports Editor

The Hopkins water polo team traveled to Lewisburg, Pa. last weekend to compete in the Bucknell Invitational. At the tournament, the Blue Jays defeated the Gannon University Golden Knights 16-12 and followed with a 13-6 victory over the University of Toronto Varsity Blues.

Throughout the course of the two games, three Jays — junior co-captain Josh Kurtz, sophomore attacker Finn Banks and junior attacker Andreas Katsis — all impressively tallied hat tricks.

“As far as the games went, we started off pretty slow in each, but then we wore teams down and pulled away in the second half,” junior co-captain Giorgio Cico said.

In their first game against Gannon, Hopkins battled back from behind seven times just in the first half. At the end of the half, Gannon led 7-6. Coming out after halftime, however, the Jays ignited their competitive fire.

Although Gannon scored the first goal of the second half, the Jays responded quickly with Banks scoring two goals. Kurtz followed with another goal to tie up the score. Katsis then asserted himself for another Blue Jay goal, putting the Jays in the lead for the first time in the game.

Still, the Hopkins offense did not let up. With only about a minute remaining in the third quarter, freshman driver Olin Shipstead tallied a goal for the Jays. At this point, Gannon had only 26 seconds remaining in the quarter to try and cut the deficit but failed to do so.

Just 32 seconds into the fourth quarter, Gannon scored, but Hopkins was unfazed.

The Jays answered with four straight goals in the span of just four minutes, sealing the victory at 15-10.

The Jays quickly refocused their energy as they headed into their second match of the tournament against Toronto. Building on their momentum, the Blue Jays came out strong against the Varsity Blues, starting the game with a 3-0 lead.

In fact, the Varsity Blues did not find themselves on the board until the second quarter of play, trailing the Jays 3-1.

Then, the Blue Jays’ freshman attacker John Murphy and Kurtz responded with back-to-back goals. Toronto made

the last goal of the half, but Hopkins still lead 5-2.

Coming into the third quarter, senior utility player Jono Gillette, Katsis and Banks all scored in the span of 85 seconds. Despite the strong second-half start, Toronto answered with their own three-goal run, putting their deficit back at three.

The Blue Jays would outscore Toronto 5-1 in the last quarter to secure the victory at 13-6.

Hopkins continues their impressive winning streak against both opponents, not having lost a game to either Gannon or Toronto in program history.

After the two wins on Saturday, head coach Ted Bresnahan has tallied a total 396 career wins with the Blue Jays, inching ever-so closer to that 400-mark.

“We will be a very competitive team throughout the season, especially considering we brought in six freshmen. Last year, we were a really young team, so hopefully that experience translates to a better record,” Cico said.

Coming out of a successful preseason, the Jays have used this momentum to have a strong start to their season.

“Our preseason this year was really focused, which really set the tone for the season,” Cico said. “Plus, having some early season games that are significantly easier than our early season games last year means that we’ve been able to gain some momentum and confidence, which should translate to playing better once we start Conference games this weekend.”

Cico also attributed their initial success to having Gillette back competing with the team this season.

“A big difference from last year is getting Jono Gillette back. He is one of the best offensive players on the east coast and has been a big reason we have started so strongly,” Cico explained.

The Blue Jays have high aspirations as they plan to maintain their positive-trending progress, especially heading into Conference play.

“Our goals for this year are to be in the Conference Championship game at the end of the year, because then we are two games away from the Final Four,” Cico said.

The Blue Jays face off against Fordham University on Saturday, Sept. 23 at 10 a.m. for their first home match of the season.

By **COURTNEY COLWELL**
For *The News-Letter*

This past weekend, the Hopkins women’s soccer team excelled in their match against the Bryn Mawr College Owls. In an exciting 9-0 victory, the Jays matched the all-time team record for goals scored and improved their record to 5-1-1 on the season.

The win was in many ways a redeeming opportunity for the Jays, who faced a disappointing loss four days earlier in overtime to The College of New Jersey.

With such a dominant showing, it should come as no surprise that the Jays saw a number of strong performances from their starting line-up and the bench alike. In fact, over the course of the game, nine different players tallied a point, and six different players tallied a goal.

The scoring began early, with a goal coming from junior forward Kristen Hori in the ninth minute. From then on, the Jays seemed nearly unstoppable, with goals coming from freshman defender Katie Whittington, sophomore forward Maddy Rocks, senior forward Bailey Monaco and freshman forward Riley O’Toole.

Meanwhile, defensively the Jays did not allow even one shot on goal. Undoubt-



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Senior Forward Michelle Santangelo

edly then, this week’s Athlete of the Week could go to a number of players. But after becoming the 20th Hopkins player to score a hat trick, the title goes to senior forward Michelle Santangelo.

Though Santangelo has always been a key offensive player for the Blue Jays, her performance this weekend will undoubtedly stand-out as one of the highlights of her collegiate career.

Santangelo first tallied an assist to Whittington to put the Jays up by two. She quickly followed up with a goal of her own in the 26th minute and then again in the 33rd minute off a penalty kick.

In the second half, Santangelo completed her first collegiate hat trick with a goal in the 71st minute off a cross from freshman midfielder Alexandra Damron.

Following Sunday’s match, Santangelo was kind enough to sit down with *The News-Letter* to discuss what the victory meant to the team and on a more personal level, what the hat trick meant to her.

The News-Letter: After Wednesday’s disappointing finish, what was the team focused on improving going into Sunday’s game?

Michelle Santangelo: That one was tough especially because it was our first loss of the season. Afterwards though, we immediately dove into the mentality of working out the errors we had during that game to make sure it would never happen again.

The defense went into high gear regaining their

confidence and becoming the most organized I have seen during my time playing for Hopkins.

The same goes offensively, [we worked] on our finishing and movement and solidifying the connection between the midfield and forwards. I think that reflected a ton during this Sunday’s game.

N-L: How excited was the team to match its record of nine goals?

MS: I didn’t even know that, woah, that’s awesome! It’s always cool to see the team’s hard work reflecting itself to reaching accomplishments like

matching the record.

What gets me more excited is knowing the huge potential of my team, that we could end up breaking those records and give ourselves a more recognizable status to be remembered for the future.

N-L: Do you enjoy taking penalty kicks or find them to be stressful? What was going through your mind when you stepped up to the spot in the 33rd minute?

MS: I love taking penalty kicks. It keeps the adrenaline going, and I always enjoy those one-on-ones with a goalie. I wasn’t really thinking much of the penalty kick except to just count my seven steps to get ready for the shot and try to not even look at the goalie. Penalty kicks are all a mind game, which is why it’s so fun to take them in the first place.

N-L: How did it feel to earn your first collegiate hat-trick?

MS: It was the most rewarding feeling ever. Coming off the bench, one hopes to make some contribution for the team and so that was my mentality right as I stepped onto the field. Obviously, I didn’t plan to get a hat trick, rather to just play my game and have fun, and I’m glad those goals were the results of that.

However, the best feeling was seeing how happy my teammates were for me and that’s honestly better than the hat-trick itself.

N-L: Do you have any personal goals for the remainder of your final season? Any team goals?

MS: Personally, I would like to now stay consistent and score goals during every game for the team and be that dangerous player defenders are nervous to go up against. Also, I would like to continue being that teammate that is an example to the rest of the team, especially the younger girls, to keep working hard, and the results will follow.

As a team, we continue to work on our organization in the back, which I feel has been great so far, as well as prove to our opponents that we are an offensive team as many of us are so skilled to score and could make an impact in the result.

Most importantly, we’ve aimed to be the most united team and enable everyone to have a voice and contribute in any way no matter what year they’re in. I really believe in this team, and I am undoubtedly hopeful that we will go very far in the season with the way we are playing together thus far.

Santangelo and the Jays will be back in action this Wednesday when they head to Camden, New Jersey for their game against Rutgers University-Camden.

Cross Country teams excel at Iona Meet of Champions

By **EMILIE HOFFER**
Sports Editor

Last Friday afternoon, the men and women of the Hopkins cross country teams took their annual trip to New York for the Iona Meet of Champions held at Van Cortlandt Park.

Any high school or collegiate cross country runner is familiar with the gravel trails that run up and down the rolling hills of the Bronx. It is the premier course in the sport, and runners enjoy the excitement that comes with racing it.

“It was the first real meet of the season, so the main expectation was for everyone to enjoy the race atmosphere with the team and leave feeling like we put in our best efforts,” junior Ellie Clawson said.

The top-ranked Hopkins women toed the line with five D-I opponents, including the Columbia University Lions and host team Iona College Gaels.

Clawson led the way for the Blue Jays, finishing the 5K course in 18:47, which allowed her to rank fifth overall. Close behind were sophomore Rebecca Grusby, freshman Therese Olshanski and senior Caroline Smith.

In tune with their tra-

ditional style of pack-running, the top four Blue Jays finished within eight seconds of each other, not allowing a single runner to cross the line in between them.

The Jays crossed the line taking fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth overall. Junior Tasha Freed rounded out the scoring for the Jays, finishing 14th in the field.

The women took the team title with just 34 points against tough D-I competition. The Lions took second with 62 points, and the Gaels claimed third with 74 points.

Clawson explained what the team’s goals are as the 2017 season progresses.

“To improve from last year and keep Hop on top when it comes to Nationals,” Clawson said. “The most important goals, however, are everything it takes to be successful — having positive attitudes everyday and staying excited even on the toughest days, supporting each other, staying healthy and staying unified as a team.”

If the first two meets of the season, both of which the Jays won by sizable margins, are any indication, the Hopkins women are likely to have another successful campaign and

propel themselves into the postseason.

Not to mention, the women are also returning six of their top seven runners from last year’s National Championship team, including All-Americans junior Felicia Koerner and junior Natalia LaSpada, who did not race this past weekend, and last year’s Centennial Conference Rookie of the year, sophomore Rebecca Grusby.

Meanwhile, the Hopkins men put on an equally impressive performance at Van Cortlandt, finishing fourth overall and outscoring all the other D-III teams in the race. In front of the Jays were three D-I teams: Columbia, Arkansas and Iona.

Despite the tough com-

petition, the fifth-ranked Jays managed to have their first four runners place in the top 26.

Senior Panth Patel led the Jays with a 20th-place finish, completing the 8K course in 26:48. Not far behind were junior Scott Pourshalchi, junior Ollie Hickson and freshman Conner Delahanty, who finished 22nd, 24th and 26th, respectively.

The top five Jays to cross the line were separated by less than 25 seconds, and two of the Jays’ top five runners were freshman competing in the first big race of their collegiate cross country careers.

The Blue Jays will toe the line again next Friday, Sept. 29 at the Paul Short Invitational in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.



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The women’s cross country team defeated five D-I teams at last Friday’s meet.

SPORTS

DID YOU KNOW?

The Hopkins field hockey team shut out the Bryn Mawr Owls 7-0. Senior powerhouse Clare Kavanagh scored her first career hat trick to blow past the Owls. The Jays are now 1-0 in the Centennial Conference.

CALENDAR

Saturday
Volleyball @ Susquehanna, 12 p.m.
Football @ Dickinson, 1 p.m.
Women's Soccer @ Washington College, 4 p.m.
Men's Soccer @ Gettysburg, 7 p.m.

NBA offseason deals leave fans surprised



Daniel Landy
DanLand

The NBA had an absolutely wild offseason, filled with highly lucrative contracts and unforeseen acquisitions.

The Golden State Warriors are head and shoulders above the rest of the Association; Consequently, teams around the League have been making numerous transactions as a direct reaction to the defending champions' dominance.

Every team has been active, either bolstering their current rosters or building for the future. Let's examine the effects that some of the major offseason moves will have on this upcoming season, as well as down the road.

First up is the sign-and-trade deal that sent nine-time All-Star Chris Paul from the Los Angeles Clippers to the Houston Rockets.

The Clippers had no choice but to make this deal, as Paul was planning to leave Los Angeles, and the franchise could not afford to lose him for nothing in return.

Given the circumstances, they made out relatively well, acquiring several decent role players, including Patrick Beverley, Sam Dekker and Lou Williams.

The Rockets seem poised to be Golden State's most serious threat in the Conference. But the San Antonio Spurs' capabilities should never be doubted with Gregg Popovich at the helm and a handful of big time players — led by Kawhi Leonard — on the court.

However, Houston's team is going to be downright scary.

The Rockets will boast a backcourt of Paul and James Harden and will surround this lethal combination with an arsenal including the likes of Eric Gordon, P.J. Tucker, Clint Capela and Trevor Ariza.

Furthermore, should Houston find a way to acquire Carmelo Anthony in the coming months, its ceiling will be raised dramatically.

Golden State should still be the favorite to come out of the West, but expect Houston to put up a better

fight than any team did in last season's Conference playoffs — during which the Warriors went undefeated for a perfect 12-0 run.

The Oklahoma City Thunder's acquisition of Paul George was extremely surprising and will have major ramifications on the team's future.

The trade was undoubtedly a good move on the Thunder's part.

Oklahoma City gave the Indiana Pacers two solid players in return, Victor Oladipo and Domantas Sabonis, but in George they acquired one of the League's most electrifying wingmen in the middle of his prime.

Pairing George with reigning MVP Russell Westbrook gives the Thunder one of the League's most menacing duos and has them right back in contention only one year after Kevin Durant's departure.

However, uncertainty still looms over the team. Both George and Westbrook can opt out of their contracts after next season, and neither player has definitively stated that he intends on remaining in Oklahoma City.

The Thunder could be forced to trade one or both of these players during the season if they do not commit long term, since they do not want to lose them for nothing, as they did with Durant.

George could very well be a one-year rental, but if he and Westbrook hit it

The Rockets seem poised to be Golden State's most serious threat in the Conference.

off, we could be looking at the two-headed monster that will lead the franchise for the foreseeable future.

The other significant trade that bolstered a

Western Conference team was the Minnesota Timberwolves' deal to acquire wingman Jimmy Butler from the Chicago Bulls.

The Wolves were clear winners in the trade, as they did not have to give up either Karl-Anthony Towns or Andrew Wiggins to get Butler.

Butler, Towns and Wiggins comprise an extremely promising young core in Minnesota.

In addition, Butler's reunion with former coach Tom Thibodeau, along with Minnesota's acquisitions of Jamal Crawford, Jeff Teague and Taj Gibson, has this team in line for its best season in over a decade.

As much as the hype surrounding the Wolves is warranted, it will be extremely difficult for them to break through in an ultra-competitive Western Conference.

SEE NBA, PAGE B10

Hopkins switches from Nike to Under Armour



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On August 28, 2017 Under Armour and Johns Hopkins Athletics officially announced their partnership. Under Armour will now be the apparel provider for the Blue Jays. According to current fall student athletes, the transition has been smoother than expected. Student athletes say the partnership gives them the opportunity to not only join Under Armour's mission in investing in the greater Baltimore community but also develop connections for future career pursuits.

B10

Volleyball secures easy victories

Last weekend, the Blue Jays faced off against the St. Mary's Seahawks, the Bryn Mawr Owls and the Goucher Gophers, defeating all three opponents in three straight sets.

PAGE B10

Athlete of the Week: Michelle Santangelo

Senior forward Michelle Santangelo scored her first career hat trick against the Bryn Mawr Owls. With Santangelo's help, the Blue Jays won with an impressive 9-0 finish.

PAGE B11

Water polo finishes preseason strong

Last weekend, the Jays traveled to Lewisburg, Pa. for the Bucknell Invitational. On Saturday, three different Jays tallied hat tricks, pushing their team towards two victories.

PAGE B11

M. Soccer opens season with six-game win streak

By DAVID GLASS
For The News-Letter

Last weekend, the Hopkins men's soccer team stayed undefeated with a 2-0 victory over the eighth-ranked Haverford College Fords in their Centennial Conference opener. The Blue Jays now have a 6-0-0 record thanks to their fifth shutout of the season, their best start to a season since 2007.

"It feels great, giving us more confidence moving forward to face other opponents in the Conference and shows us a glimpse of what we are capable of," junior midfielder Sebastian Salathe said.

Hopkins did all of its damage offensively in the first half, with goals from sophomore midfielder Achim Younker and junior forward Gerrit Church.

Younker's goal came in the 25th minute off of an assist from freshman midfielder Alejandro Maclean. Younker has now scored in every game but one this season and he has a team-leading total of seven.

Though the goal would prove to be all that the Jays needed, they added an insurance goal in the 38th minute. After drawing a foul, Church booted a free kick that ricocheted off of a Fords defender and into the back of the net.

Graduate student goalkeeper Bryan See had two saves on the day to preserve his 18th career shut-

out, earning him the title of Centennial Conference Defensive Player of the Week.

Saturday marked the first time that Haverford had been shutout since Oct. 22, 2016. See attributes much of his success this season to the Jays' stellar defense.

"An experienced goalkeeper won't have too many saves to make if he organizes his defense well," See said. "The chemistry and cohesiveness in our defense is unmatched, we go into every game knowing that we have the ability to shutout the most lethal opponents in the country if we just work hard for each other."

See also noted how the freshmen are helping the team succeed.

"They came in with incredible amount of skill and talent, but more importantly their desire to win is just as high as the returners," See said.

He also emphasized how the freshmen have quickly adapted to head coach Craig Appleby's system.

"It can only get better when everyone has fully grasped onto what we want to accomplish on the field," See said.

The support of the Hopkins fan base also helped lead the Jays to victory, according to Salathe.

"They were extremely active and loud, feeding into the way we were playing and the success we were having during the game," he said.

Salathe was grateful for the support and he stressed how important that is for the team.

"It feels good playing at home with that big of a fan base, as we are receiving an active response to the hard work we've been putting into preparing for the season and... the game itself," he said.

Before their victory on Saturday, the Blue Jays had lost six consecutive games to the Fords. The win also propels Hopkins to a six-game win streak to start the season, their longest since the 2007 season. During that year they started off with 11 straight wins. In addition, it put the team in the most recent rankings as the number 16 team in the country.

This victory could eventually prove to be the deciding factor for where the Centennial Conference

Tournament will be hosted, as the Fords were projected to finish first in the Conference, and the Blue Jays were projected to finish third.

See expects the team's success to continue.

"Our winning mentality has never been higher after failing to accomplish our goal the past couple seasons. It really fueled us to strive for a greater success," he said.

Now playing in his last year of eligibility, See knows what it will take for the Blue Jays to thrive this year and feels that the talent up and down the roster is already flourishing.

"The amount of potential we have as a group is also starting to show," See said.

Hopkins will next face the Neumann University Knights at Homewood Field on Wednesday, September 20 at 7 p.m.



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Hopkins is out to its best start since 2007 after Saturday night's victory.